

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 14, 2013

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro
Excused: Schaefer

Mayor Paterson asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the tragedy in Newtown which occurred one month ago.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the special meeting on December 17, 2012 as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the special meeting on January 7, 2013 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, discussed the proposed hydroelectric project at the Kirby Mill. (Statement attached).

Charles R. Vermilyea, Jr., Middle Turnpike, requested answers to the questions he posed at the last meeting on the school building project regarding the need to do anything given the expected decline in the school population. Mayor Paterson explained that no decisions have been made.

Councilor Shapiro raised a point of order noting this is not the time for a colloquy between the Council and the public, but a time for the public to speak. Mayor Paterson ruled in favor of Mr. Shapiro's point of order.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, commented on recent accidents concerning the Fire Department and stated it speaks to a larger problem within the organization. He also questioned whether the firefighters should use Town equipment to get dinner.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, reiterated what Mr. Hossack said and stated his objection to seeing fire trucks all over Mansfield.

Martha Kelly, Bundy Lane, is a member of the Board of Education but spoke as a private citizen asking the Council to consider retaining the fifth-grade students in the preK-fourth grade buildings. (Statement attached)

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Matt Hart addressed a number of issues raised during public comments:

- The Town is still working on a possible purchase power agreement with the Mansfield Hollow hydroelectric project. There is no current proposal from the Shifrins. Consultants for this endeavor have been used judiciously.
- The recent accidents involving public safety vehicles are being investigated and insurance claims have been filed. When firefighters are on duty it is important they remain close to their vehicles.
- The Council agreed to hold the next school building project meeting on January 22, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

The Town Manager reviewed the action steps he is proposing following the Newtown tragedy, as outlined in his report. The proposed action steps will be an item on the next agenda. Council members suggested both the Board of Education and Human Services should be involved. Thank you notes will also be sent to the Fire Department and the Mansfield Middle School Chorus.

In response to a question, Mr. Hart reported the conversation with the State Comptroller regarding CCM's proposal concerning the contributions made to MERS centered on their proposal to increase employee contributions.

A discussion regarding the UConn Tech Park and legislative action will be put on the next agenda.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Shapiro asked for an update on the Senior Services recruitment of a Social Worker. The Town Manager reported the Personnel Committee will be reviewing the issue at their next meeting and in the meantime these services are being provided via a contractual agreement with a LCSW.

Mayor Paterson referred to comments in the packet from the Recording Secretary for the Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities. Mayor Paterson reminded Council members to be cautious when talking about individuals, including those serving on Town committees, in public forums when they are not present to explain the situation. Ms. Paterson asked Council members to bring their concerns to the staff or Town Manager and then, if not adequately addressed, to the Council.

Mr. Freudmann stated he raised an issue about this particular Committee, questioning whether something was on the agenda and whether the vote taken was proper, not regarding any individual but the process. Mr. Freudmann believes the agenda item, "Accessibility Issues" is too broad; the letter in the packet does not accurately reflect discussions of the issue by the Town Council; and urged the Committee to work with the Transportation Advisory Committee to prioritize sidewalk projects in Town.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

Mr. Hart noted three additional Storrs Center businesses opened in December and suggested an update on current and future phases be added to a future agenda.

2. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

UConn has extended the comment period for the EIE and have scheduled an additional public hearing on January 27, 2013 at the UConn Health Center.

3. Proposed Agricultural Land Usage Agreement Policy and Model Agricultural Lease
Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien and Natural Resource and Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman reviewed some minor cosmetic changes included in the January 2013 updated draft which was distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective January 14, 2013, to:

- Approve the proposed Agricultural Land Usage Agreement Policy and model Agricultural Lease
- Authorize staff, in conjunction with the Agriculture Committee, to solicit proposals in February 2013 from all interested farmers with review and notification by May 2013, for leases for the 2014 growing season. These new leases would begin on January 1, 2014 and end on December 31, 2018, with the option to renew for five years until December 31, 2023, at which time lease requirements and the leasing process would be reviewed and RFP's would again be distributed to all interested farmers. Contracts with terms longer than ten years would also be reviewed after five and ten years.
- Approve the extension of the current leases to December 31, 2013.

Mr. Freudmann moved to divide the question and vote separately on the second bullet point. The motion was seconded by Ms. Keane. Mr. Freudmann voted in favor of dividing the question, all others voted against the motion. The motion failed.

The original motion passed unanimously.

4. S. Eagleville Walkway Project

As a member of the Finance Committee and as a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee to whom this issue was referred, Mr. Ryan spoke in support of the Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendation to delay any decision until the Mansfield Tomorrow planning effort has been completed.

By consensus the Council agreed to wait.

5. Connecticut Light and Power Interstate Reliability Project

Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter reviewed the Connecticut Siting Council's approval of the proposed transmission line project and how each of the mitigation measures requested by the Town was addressed.

By consensus the Council agreed to support the use of Design Option 2 for Mansfield Hollow (No Right-of-Way Expansion) as this alternative would require less clearing of vegetation.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

6. Mansfield Tomorrow Initiative

Project Director Linda Painter and Project Manager Jennifer Kaufman described the products to be realized at the end of this initiative, the timeline for the project, the project team and upcoming events. They outlined the community engagement process which includes meetings, workshops, and a wide variety of additional outreach strategies. Mayor Paterson will represent the Council and attend the first two scheduled events. All Councilors are invited. The Town Manager will include the Mansfield Tomorrow initiative as a regular component of his Manager's report.

7. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Chair of the Finance Committee Mr. Ryan moved, effective January 14, 2013, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and State and Federal Single Audit Reports for the year ended June 30, 2012, as endorsed by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Ryan reported the audit went very well, the auditors offering only a couple of suggestions.

Noting the praise offered by the auditors, Mayor Paterson thanked the Director of Finance and her department for their work.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Dissolution of Committee on Community Quality of Life

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective January 14, 2013, to dissolve the Committee on Community Quality of Life.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Fiscal Year 2012/13 Wage Re-Opener for CSEA, Local 2001- Public Works

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective January 14, 2013, to ratify the tentative agreement between the Town and CSEA, Local 2001, Public Works employees for a two-percent general wage increase to be implemented retroactive to July 1, 2012, and an additional one-time \$250 clothing allowance to be administered as outlined in the Tentative Agreement.

The motion passed with all in favor except Freudmann, Keane and Paulhus who voted nay.

10. President's Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee
Mr. Kochenburger, Ms. Moran and Mr. Paulhus agreed to plan the ceremony. Mr. Kochenburger will chair.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chairman Ryan reported that in addition to the audit report the Finance Committee also discussed the overall cost allocation of the Finance Department and the public works contract with Region 19. These discussions will continue.

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees offered the recommendation to reappoint Will Bigl to the Housing Code Board of Appeals.
The motion passed unanimously.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

11. Advisory Committee on Needs of Persons with Disabilities re: 11/27/12 Meeting Minutes
12. Commission on Aging re: New social worker
13. J. Kaufmann re: Growing Farms in Mansfield workshop
14. H. Hand re: UConn Water and the Town of Mansfield
15. R. Mocanu re: Additional water sources sought by UConn and the Town of Mansfield
16. Legal Notice: Agreement between Regional School District #19 Board of Education and Regional School District #19 Administrators Association
17. Legal Notice: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Town of Mansfield
18. Legal Notice: Mansfield Zoning Board of Appeals
19. L. Hultgren re: CPI Escalation for Multi-family Garbage/Recycling Collection Contract
20. M. Hart re: Appointment of Hearing Citation Officer
21. M. Hart re: Reappointment to Conservation Commission
22. M. Hart re: University of Connecticut Application to the Microgrid Grant and Loan Pilot Program
23. Thank you letters to Candlelight Vigil participants
24. Mansfield Community Playground, Take Note! Concert postcard
25. Mansfield Minute, January 2013
26. Reminder News, December 20, 2012, "Mansfield honors Sandy Hook victims"
27. Norwich Bulletin, December 25, 2012, "Bowles to push regionalization"

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

In addition to those items mentioned during the meeting the Council has some additional pending items including Charter Revision and the MDTP current charge which will be added to future agendas.

Mr. Freudmann requested a review of the Fire Department's budget, recent accidents, exploding costs, the use of fire apparatus on routine errands and how personnel is being used.

Other Council members felt the issues could be addressed during the budget process and disagreed with the characterization of rampant misuse of fire apparatus. The Town Manager expressed confidence in Chief Dagon and his officers. The accidents are being investigated and appropriate steps taken. The Town Manager will have a discussion with the Chief and report back to the Council on both the accidents and the vehicle use policy. Other issues will be discussed within the budget process.

The comments of Mr. Hossack, from the audience, were ruled out of order by the Mayor.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

January 14, 2013