

/REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
March 11, 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, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Ryan

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Paterson and Mr. Paulhus who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2013 special meeting as presented. Mr. Schaefer noted that he was not present at the meeting. The minutes, as amended, passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger, Ms. Paterson and Mr. Schaefer who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant)

The Town Clerk read the legal notice. Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter explained the options available to the Town and outlined the 2 proposals under consideration. Option one would make ADA improvements to Town facilities and option two would support the development of an accessible community playground at the Mansfield Community Center.

Bill Waite, MAC member and Manager for Research Projects at the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, has done work on community connectedness in Mansfield. The research highlighted the importance of having high quality outdoor recreation facilities available to all children. (Statement attached)

Ellen Tulman, Ball Hill Road, is the Special Needs Coordinator for the Mansfield Community Playground Committee. Ms. Tulman submitted a letter from the mother of a special needs child in support of the accessible playground under consideration. (Letter attached)

Sara Anderson, Ellise Road and General Coordinator for the Mansfield Community Playground Committee, urged support for the project and noted the planned playground will bring accessibility to a new level. Ms. Anderson asked those present who support the playground to please stand. (Statement attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, opposed including the community playground in the grant as it was presented as a community funded project. Ms. Wassmundt believes the Storrs Center project will provide a sense of connectedness for the community and is concerned about the cost of maintenance for the playground.

Mark LaPlaca, Jonathan Lane and a member of the Board of Education, speaking as an individual urged support for the playground. Mr. LaPlaca stated the school budget does not make playgrounds accessible to the level proposed by this project and noted there is a strong level of support in the community for this project.

Jane Goldman, Wormwood Hill Road, commented that the lack of connectedness is an issue in Mansfield and believes this playground would be an important draw for the new young faculty expected with the UConn expansion.

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Lauren Le Blanc, Middle Turnpike, commented that school playgrounds are not accessible to children who are not in school during the school day. Ms. Le Blanc often takes her grandchildren to Coventry to play and noted it would be nice to have a playground in Mansfield.

Cristina Colon-Semenza, Woods Road, believes the playground will provide an opportunity for all who are marginalized due to a disability, income, or being elderly. Ms. Colon-Semenza supports the projects noting it will offer an opportunity to meet people.

The public hearing was declared closed at 8:05 p.m.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move Item 2, Community/Campus Relations, Spring Weekend, as the next item of business following public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments were offered.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Matt Hart presented highlights of his report.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson noted the passing of Jim Dillman, a longtime teacher and active member of the community.

Ms. Moran and Ms. Keane both noted the lack of participants from certain areas of Town at the Mansfield Tomorrow Community Visioning workshop and urged residents to make use of the websites to make sure their views are included.

Mr. Freudmann attended the New England Hydropower event and, while he wishes them luck in their endeavor, urged the Council not to become involved in the project.

Mr. Paulhus thanked the Community Center for hosting the basketball tryouts.

By consensus the Council agreed to switch items 3 and 4 on the agenda.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Community/Campus Relations, Spring Weekend

Mike Kirk, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President's Office and UConn Chief of Police Barbara O'Connor outlined the plans for the event formerly known as Spring Weekend.

The University is planning a series of activities for UConn students but is planning to retain many of policies implemented in the last few years to confine the events solely to UConn students. Chief O'Connor described the collaborative effort which will be used by UConn, the Town and the State Police to monitor the events.

Mayor Paterson, on behalf of the Town, thanked Mr. Kirk and Chief O'Connor for their work.

3. School Building Project

Mr. Shapiro moved that the Town Council endorse the Board of Education's plan for ongoing maintenance for the four school buildings for the next five years. The method and amount of money as set forth on Page 11 of the March 11, 2013 Town Council packet is that the program is for \$200,000 for five years for repairs and maintenance and \$200,000 for five years for computer infrastructure. The method of financing is referred to the Finance Committee for their recommendation.

Council members noted that this motion does not include any educational enhancements and future plans will have to be addressed before the end of the five

year period. The Finance Committee will look at PTAs' ability to raise funds for some of the playscapes.

Seconded by Mr. Schaefer, the motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted nay.

4. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant)

Council members discussed whether the Vinton playscape could be included in the small cities grant and whether grant funds could be used for ADA improvements to existing playgrounds. Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter stated that according to the grant guideline those projects would not be eligible.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Keane seconded to authorize the Town Manager to file an application for DECD Community Development Block Grant funds to support an application for \$500,000 (community playground) as set forth in the certified resolution found on pages 23 and 24 of the March 11, 2013 Town Council packet.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Storrs Center Update

Howard Kaufman of Leyland Alliance will be present at the April 8, 2013 meeting to update the Council on the current development and plans for future phases including those for townhouses and condominiums.

6. Quarterly Financial Statements dated December 31, 2012

Mr. Schaefer, Acting Finance Committee Chair moved, effective March 25, 2013, to accept the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2012.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

7. Hawthorne Lane Conservation Easement Amendment

Attorney Steve Bacon, representing the owners of 21 and 25 Hawthorne Lane, described his inability to secure a subordination agreement from Wells Fargo for 21 Hawthorne Lane. A Consent of Lien Holder has been offered instead. Mr. Bacon has received assurance that a title insurance policy is available and would protect the Town in the event of a foreclosure.

Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien stated he is comfortable with the process as outlined by Attorney Bacon and offered a draft motion which incorporates the agreement for title insurance discussed this evening.

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective March 11, 2013, to authorize the Town Attorney to accept the attached "Consent of Lien Holder" for the property located at 21 Hawthorne Lane in lieu of the standard subordination agreement on the condition that the property owners execute and fulfill all of their responsibilities under an agreement approved by the Town Attorney that is identical or similar to the attached Agreement to Provide Title Insurance by which the property owner agree to provide the Town with a title insurance policy to protect the Town's "Amended and Restated Conservation Easement Agreement" rights on the 21 Hawthorne Lane property in the event of a foreclosure, and which the Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute for the Town of Mansfield, subject to the approval of the Town Attorney.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. 2013 Recreational Trails Program Grant

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

Resolved, effective March 11, 2013, to submit an application in the amount of \$300,000, to be funded 80% by the State and 20% by the Town, to the Connecticut

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Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Program for the purpose of improving wheelchair accessibility, trail linkages, educational and physical activity opportunities at the Schoolhouse Brook Park/Bicentennial Pond Recreation area.

Staff is reviewing the use of the gate at Bicentennial Pond.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann, Ms. Keane and Mr. Paulhus who were in opposition.

9. Capital Improvement Program Closeouts/Adjustments

Mr. Schaeffer, Acting Chair of the Finance Committee, moved, effective March 11, 2013, to approve the adjustments to the Capital Projects fund, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated March 6, 2013.

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan reported no additional General Fund money is needed for these adjustments.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. WPCA, FY 2012/13 Willimantic Sewer Budget

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective March 11, 2013, to adopt the FY 2012/13 Willimantic Sewer Budget as prepared by Town staff.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. WPCA, FY 2012/13 UConn Water and Sewer Budget

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Freudmann seconded, effective March 11, 2013, to adopt the FY 2012/13 UConn Water/Sewer Budget as prepared by Town staff.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to reconvene as the Mansfield Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger reported the Committee on Committees will be meeting March 15, 2013.

Ms. Moran reported the Ad Hoc Committee on Responsible Contracting, at their last meeting, heard from two members of the Department of Labor who spoke about the apprenticeship program and fraud.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

12.R. Hossack re: Chaffeeville Road

13.Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission re: Designation of Browns Road as a Town Scenic Road- Mr. Freudmann asked if the Council or PZC is the authorizing body for scenic road designation. The Town Manager reported it is the PZC.

14.Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission re: FY 2013-14 PZC/IWA Operating Budget

15.M. Hart re: Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 5533 – An Act Concerning the Municipal Employee Retirement System

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- 16.E. Paterson/M. Hart re: Testimony Regarding Governor's Proposed FY 2013/14 Budget
- 17.V. Walton re: An Act Establishing A Mattress Stewardship Program
- 18.Town of Mansfield Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2011-2012
- 19.State of Connecticut Department of Public Health re: HEARTSafe Community
- 20.CCM – 10-Point Municipal Leader Action Plan In Response to the Proposed State Budget
- 21. WINCOG Testimony for SB 843 and other Bills to Implement the Governor's Budget

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

By consensus the Council will not meet on March 28, 2013 (beginning of holy week) but will begin the April 1, 2013 meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Freudmann requested the contract for maintenance and grounds keeping between Region 19 and the Town be discussed prior to the expiration date of the contract.

Mr. Freudmann requested a review of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership charge. The Town Manager suggested the discussion be held after the presentation by the developer at the April meeting and Ms. Moran suggested members look at the new Mansfield Downtown Partnership Strategic Plan on the Partnership's website.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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