

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 10, 2013

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran 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, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro
Excused: Paterson, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2013 meeting. Mr. Freudmann requested the minutes be corrected to show he voted in the affirmative on Item 3, Building Permit Fee Fixing Agreement between the Town of Mansfield, Leyland Storrs LLC and EDR Storrs, and voted against the motion to move into executive session. The minutes, as corrected, passed.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs

Director of Planning Linda Painter presented an overview of the Neighborhood Assistance Act and the program applications being proposed. In addition to the 4 Town projects a solicitation sent to area non-profits yielded an application from the Community Children's Center.

Ben Wiles, Browns Road, spoke in favor of the Community Children's Center application, noting that in addition to the energy savings the organization will realize, the installation of solar panels will support the core values of the Center.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, verified that the program is an opportunity for businesses to contribute and in return receive a tax rebate.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, suggested that all the funds received in additional state revenues be returned to the taxpayers. Mr. Hossack commented the reason the Republican Party decided to petition for a referendum is to give all residents a chance to vote on the budget.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager noted the new expanded version of the Mansfield Minute (Agenda Item 13) and thanked Leslie McDonough and Sara Delia for their work. Using current resources, the publication is available online and in hard copy at a limited number of locations throughout Mansfield.

Mr. Freudmann asked for clarification regarding the June 30th ending date for the Region 19 Agreement for Parking Lot Services and Ground Maintenance. Mr. Hart replied the contract for ground maintenance will cease on June 30th and the parking lot services will be covered under a new contract once approved by the Council. In the meantime, he does not expect any work will need to be done on the parking areas.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments offered.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs

Mr. Shapiro moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, to approve the following projects for submission to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services for inclusion in the 2013 Neighborhood Assistance Act

Program: water harvesting project at the Mansfield Community Center, community playground at the Mansfield Community Center, agricultural land preservation/acquisition, energy efficiency/water conservation program for low and moderate income homeowners and solar installation at the Community Children's Center.

In furtherance of this resolution, the Town Manager is hereby authorized to submit applications for the above-referenced Town-sponsored projects.

Mr. Paulhus offered a point of order regarding Council rules prohibiting action by the Council on an item on which a public hearing was conducted at the same meeting without a vote to do so.

Deputy Mayor Moran ruled the prohibition applies only to discussions of ordinances.

Ms. Keane seconded the motion.

Ms. Painter will verify that for Town projects the annual audit will serve as the post-project review. Non-profit organizations will need to provide their own review conducted by a certified accounting firm on any amounts over \$25,000.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted in opposition.

3. Storrs Center Update

Town Manager Matt Hart discussed the temporary traffic patterns in the Storrs Center area during construction of Bolton Road Extension and Royce Circle. A conceptual plan of the Town Square will be presented at 7:30 pm on June 11, 2013 in the Council Chamber. Public input is welcomed.

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to add Item 11, Planning and Zoning Commission Application Referral, to the agenda as Item 6a.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Moran who abstained.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Rental Fee for Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office Space

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, to approve the 13-month fee of \$8,630 to be charged to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership for the use of 356 square feet of office space within the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, for the period from June 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The Town reserves the right to adjust the fee for any subsequent lease periods or relocation to another municipal facility.
The motion passed unanimously.

5. Contract between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for Resident State Trooper Services

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:
Resolved, effective June 10, 2013, that Town Manager Matthew W. Hart is hereby authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Mansfield with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police, for the services of resident state troopers for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015.
The motion passed unanimously.

6. Amendments to Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Ordinance

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective June 10, 2013, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on June 24, 2013, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Ordinance.

The motion passed unanimously.

6a. Planning and Zoning Commission Application Referral

Council members discussed the PZC referral which would allow the building of a hotel in the Storrs Center Project.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to inform the Planning and Zoning Commission that the Mansfield Town Council takes no position on the application to amend the zoning regulations.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger reported the Ad Hoc Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee which is reviewing the fee waivers at the Community Center will be meeting on June 12th to continue their discussions. The Committee on Committees will be meeting on June 14th.

Ms. Moran noted the Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for the June 20th has been canceled. Ms. Moran will review the calendar with regards to beginning the process of the Town Manager's evaluation.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

7. S. Herbst re: Spring Weekend

8. S. Bourque re: Reappointment to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors- A new letter indicating the correct appointments dates will be sent from the Manager's office.

9. M. Stanton re: budget petition certification

10. Town of Mansfield Notice of Budget Referendum

11. Planning and Zoning Commission Application Referral

12. Mansfield Historical Society Museum Opening

13. Mansfield Minute – June 2013

14. Mansfield Tomorrow: Mansfield Today

15. Municipal Opportunities & Regional Efficiencies

16. Sections Affecting WINCOG within HB 6706 – The Act Implementing the State Budget

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Freudmann requested an accounting of materials, labor (including benefits), and the cost of equipment used by the Town for the Storrs Center project for FY 2012/13. The item will be added to a future agenda following the close of the fiscal year.

Mr. Kochenburger requested the Town explore whether there is a digital divide developing in the community between those residents who have access and wish to receive their information electronically and those who do not. The item will be added to a future agenda.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

June 10, 2013