GoToMeeting | Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 So. Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on GoToMeeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Ausburger, Berthelot, Bruder, Freudmann, Kochenburger, Moran, Schurin, Shaiken
Excused: Fratoni

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Motion **passed** with all in favor.

Mr. Schurin **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2020 special meeting as presented. Motion **passed** with all in favor.

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2020 special meeting as presented.

Mr. Freudmann **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded to edit the minutes by removing "None" from business item number three and replacing it with "Councilor Freudmann expressed concern over the 19.5% increase in the town's contribution to the CMERS pension plan. He opposes the proposed hiring of a full time Communications Specialist and of a part time HR Specialist. He also suggested that the number of Resident State Troopers be reduced from eight to seven."

Mr. Kochenburger **moved** and Mr. Schurin seconded to change the statement proposed in Mr. Freudmann's amendment to "Mr. Freudmann stated several objections to items in the budget as well as the budget process itself." Motion to amend the motion to edit the minutes **passed** with all in favor except Berthelot and Freudmann who voted against.

Motion to edit the minutes as amended **passed** with all in favor except Berthelot and Freudmann who voted against.

Mr. Freudmann **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded to edit the minutes by deleting "as well as highlights of the Operating Transfers, Other Operating, and Capital Projects budgets" from business item number two.

Mayor Moran ruled the motion **out of order** and the portion of the minutes in question accurate as presented.

Mr. Shaiken **moved** the question. Motion to call the question **passed** with all in favor except Ausburger and Freudmann who voted against.

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2020 special meeting as amended **passed** with all in favor except Ausburger, Berthelot, and Freudmann who voted against.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING: Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget**
   The Town Clerk read the call. No public dialed in to comment. Written comments are attached.

5. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**
   None.

6. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**
   Interim Town Manager John Carrington presented the portion of his written report not pertaining to the Town's COVID-19 response.

7. **REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**
   Mayor Moran reported that she continues to attend daily town operations meetings and state calls. She is concerned about what newspapers are reporting and what she is hearing from department heads that the strain of working from home is taking its toll and urged everyone to pay attention to their neighbors and check in. She further reported that the region's Governors have established a regional Council for returning to normal life and to look out for a Mansfield Bear Hunt event from the Library coming soon.
   Mr. Bruder reported that the schools have been doing a great job and it is a struggle to juggle working at home with kids.
   In response to a question from Mr. Ausburger, Mr. Carrington reported that some part time staff at the Mansfield Community Center and the Library have been laid off.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**
   A. **Update on Town Response to COVID-19 (Item #2, 3.18.20 Agenda)**
      Mr. Carrington presented the portion of his Town Manager's report pertaining to the Town's COVID-19 response. Councilors discussed COVID-19 testing at UConn and the potential use of college dormitories for essential non-congregate housing.

In response to an inquiry regarding school layoffs, Superintendent of Schools Kelly Lyman reported that all school staff are busy and we are required to keep school staff employed in order to be eligible for certain funding later. Ms. Lyman also clarified that the school library air conditioning window units referred to in the Manager's report were purchased last year and are being installed now.

Mr. Freudmann **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded whereas the COVID-19 crisis has led to irretrievable financial losses to the Mansfield Community Center, moved effective 4/13/2020 the Mansfield Community Center is permanently closed.

Councilors debated the advisability of the proposed motion.

Motion **failed** with all against except Ausburger and Freudmann who voted in favor.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. UConn Hockey Arena Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)

Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter presented a summary of the EIE.

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded, effective April 13, 2020, to authorize the Mayor to co-endorse the letter to the University of Connecticut included as an attachment to the Town Manager's April 13, 2020 memo regarding the Hockey Arena Environmental Impact Evaluation. Motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Proposed Human Rights Commission Charge

By recommendation of the Committee on Committees, Mr. Bruder **moved** to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, to adopt the following Human Rights Commission charge:

CHARGE
A Human Rights Commission was established by the Mansfield Town Council on January 13, 2020. The mission of the Commission is to promote implementation of universal human rights values and principles in all Town of Mansfield programs and throughout the wider community.

To carry out this mission, the Commission shall affirm, encourage and initiate programs and services within the Town of Mansfield and in the wider community designed to place priority upon protecting, respecting, and fulfilling

the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To support and promote human rights, the Commission will:

Provide human rights education
Be proactive in human rights efforts
Make recommendations for how to address human rights violations
Ensure active public participation
Be transparent and open
Be publicly accountable for human rights progress

MEMBERSHIP
The Commission shall consist of seven (7) community members serving as regular members and two (2) community members serving as alternates. Community members shall have an interest in the civil and human rights concerns of the community. Members shall be appointed by the Town Council in a way that strives to achieve a balance on the Commission that reflects the community and has protected class representation.

MEETINGS
Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least quarterly.

Mr. Freudmann **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded to add "Northeastern Connecticut" between each instance of the words "wider" and "community". The motion was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Motion on the floor now reads:

Resolved, to adopt the following Human Rights Commission charge:

CHARGE
A Human Rights Commission was established by the Mansfield Town Council on January 13, 2020. The mission of the Commission is to promote implementation of universal human rights values and principles in all Town of Mansfield programs and throughout the wider Northeastern Connecticut community.

To carry out this mission, the Commission shall affirm, encourage and initiate programs and services within the Town of Mansfield and in the wider Northeastern Connecticut community designed to place priority upon protecting, respecting, and fulfilling the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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MEETINGS
Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least quarterly.

Motion as amended **passed** with all in favor except Ausburger and Freudmann who voted against.

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to reverse the order of business items 9C and 9D. Motion **passed** unanimously.

C. Executive Order 7S - Tax Collection Provisions
Director of Finance Cherie Trahan and Collector of Revenue Jerl Casey provided information and answered Councilor questions regarding the tax deferment program and eligibility.

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded to pass the following resolution:

Resolved, on April 13, 2020, under the authority of Executive Order N. 7S, the Town Council orders the implementation of the Deferment Program for tax, utility, or other assessments due from March 10, 2020 through and including July 1, 2020.

Motion **passed** unanimously.

D. School Building Committee Design Presentation
Chair of the School Building Committee Randy Walikonis gave a brief summary of what the Committee has accomplished and introduced Superintendent of Schools Kelly Lyman, Project Manager Scott Pellman of Colliers International, and Architect Ryszard Szczypek of TSKP Studio. Mr.

Szczypek reviewed the site plan, potential alternative parking plans, and internal design plans.

10. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Bruder reported that the Committee on Committees will plan to return to having their meetings now that virtual meetings are possible to continue interviewing and filling committee vacancies.
Mr. Kochenburger reported that the Finance Committee is working on setting a date to meet.
Mayor Moran asked the Personnel Committee to work on the Town Manager advertising material.

11. DEPARTMENTAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

12. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. B. Wassmundt emails re; Budget FY 20/21
B. Sgt. K. Timme, Town of Mansfield Monthly Report (March 2020)
C. F. Saccomanno, Comptroller UConn USG letter re: Off-Campus Rent (4.3.20)
D. P. Aho, Chair Mansfield PZC memo re: Public Hearing on Managers Proposed FY21 Budget (4.7.20)
E. J. Carrington email re: Committee and other meetings that require public participation (4.9.20)

13. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Update from Registrars of Voters regarding primary planning

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Mayor

Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk

From:	Elizabeth Wassmundt
To:	Budget2021
Cc:	Town Council
Subject:	Budget issues
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:52:12 PM

A week or so ago, I wrote to the Council to say that there should be layoffs of non-essential town employees and I cited that the Council should consider the taxpayers who have lost jobs yet will have to pay the tax bill. I have reconsidered my position on lay offs.

I've come to feel that it is in the best interest of the town for every business, including the running of this town, to keep employees on the payroll, if at all possible, during these very stressful times. Depending on the severity of the corona Virus issue, town employee lay offs may be necessary but not now.

I do hope that town employees will recognize the benefit they are getting and will be grateful and sympathetic to the many taxpayers who will lose their jobs. Town employees will keep their jobs and, get stimulus checks. I suggest the town set up a fund consisting of money from those stimulus checks to benefit town taxpayers who have lost jobs. Of course the employee's contribution would be voluntary; I will contribute.

But, this Council must not forget town taxpayers. The Council has two constituencies: town employees and town tax payers. This year you should produce a very conservative budget in the interest of the tax payers. Economic movement in the town and state has stopped. I fear for the ramifications in this town, especially the health of The Downtown. This town's revenue is going to be impacted; how badly will depend on the length and severity of this economic crash. I agree that it is best to keep employees on the payroll but this Council needs to give up its sacred cows and produce a lean budget.

To this end, please look at page 21 of the proposed budget: New Positions.

First, the Charter states that positions are created by the Council. What right does a town manager have to just put money in a budget for new positions? I request a ruling from the Town Attorney.

Let's look at all these positions.

Communications Specialist shared with the Board of Ed.: If the Board of Ed needs such, let them take care of it. At your last budget session, I heard two reasons why this position was needed. The Town Manager said that there was a plan to market the town. You had better know what this town is going to look like after the present corona situation before you consider a marketing plan. This is not the time to market. Then I heard the Mayor say that we needed someone to get out information about Covid-19. I say that the public is saturated with information about covid-19. If you think there is something from Mansfield which must be communicated, then use one of the current staff. Especially, I suggest you look to Parks & Rec. That is a department which regularly does marketing and which is shut down at this time yet everyone is employed. Cut out the Communications Specialist.

Human Resources Specialist: I wrote a separate email about that. None at this time, please.

Public Works full time laborer: I was in favor of purchasing a tree cutting truck and hiring a person to cut trees; this was done in last year's budget. At the time, Public Works was questioned about needing a second person to work on this vehicle. Council was told that there would always be a laborer available to do that. Fine, keep doing just that. This is not the year to increase payroll. No new laborer, please.

Public Works upgrade of two laborers. If two people are qualified and doing a higher grade job, please upgrade their positions.

Resident State Troopers office increased position: I don't have enough information to make an informed decision about this but unless it is absolutely necessary, there should be no change this year.

Human Services positions: This is a year to make do with what one has. No new positions or upgrades, please.

Thank you for your time.

Betty Wassmundt

From:	Elizabeth Wassmundt
To:	Budget2021
Cc:	Town Council
Subject:	Budget re: H.R. Department
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:20:18 PM

Please correct any misunderstandings I may have and please answer any questions I pose. Thank you.

When Derrik Kennedy was T. M., the employees in that office were as follows:
Josh: Full time position acting as HR manager and assistant to T.M. I.E., part time in HR.
Michael LaRochelle: full time position in HR.
Audrey: part time in HR.
Totals for HR: 1 full time position and
2 part time positions

Now we have:
New HR Director: full time position
Noelle S.: full time, I believe she took the job Michael L. had in Hr.
Audrey: Part time in HR
Totals: 2 full time positions and
1 part time position

How can the TM justify asking for another position in HR when now there are more positions in HR than there ever were and the town seemed to function well in the past?

Let's see job descriptions so we know what these people are doing. Along with this, the proposed position should be appropriately established by the Town Council. I object to creating a new position via the town manager's budget; the Charter says that the Council creates any new position.

I was on the council when the HR Director position was established and I agreed with doing so. Now I say, let's wait to see how this HR Director works out before putting any more people in that department.

Betty Wassmundt

From:	Elizabeth Wassmundt
To:	Budget2021
Subject:	comments regarding budget
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:20:47 AM

April 8, 2020

To: Town Manager, Council

From: Betty Wassmundt

RE: Brief comments regarding Town Manager's budget

This budget should include No NEW employee positions under any circumstance.

Overtime within the Fire and emergency services is outrageous. Cut the Fire Department budget by that amount.

Note: I will expand on my comments at a later time.

MANSFIELD
CONNECTICUT

Town of Mansfield
Planning and Zoning Commission

MEMO

To: Mansfield Town Council

From: Paul Aho, Chair

Date: April 7, 2020

Subject: Public Hearing on Proposed FY21 Budget (Town Manager)

On behalf of the Planning and Zoning Commission, I am writing to express our strong support for the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations project that is included in Interim Town Manager Carrington's proposed FY21 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). As the Council is aware, the Commission has been working on a rewrite of these regulations for several years.

While we have made some interim amendments to address pressing issues such as multi-family and affordable housing, each time we tackle interim amendments it slows down the overall project. Additionally, the project has increased significantly in scope since it was initiated. Originally, our focus was on a reorganization of existing regulations to make the documents more user friendly and targeted amendments to address specific concerns. However, the more time we spent with the regulations, the more we realized that a more comprehensive approach was needed. As a result, there are few regulations that will be carried over into the new regulations in their current form.

Last year the Commission initiated the process of retaining a new consultant to help us complete the project. We are pleased to say that CHA (formerly CME) has been hired to assist us in bringing this project across the finish line. As part of the initial phase of work, they are reviewing the work the Commission's Regulatory Review Committee and staff have completed to date and will be working with the Commission to finalize a list of priorities for the first phase of the revision process.

Due to the project's expanded scope, the Regulatory Review Committee expressed concerns during the selection process that the funds remaining from the original project would not be sufficient to complete the rewrite as currently envisioned. In response to these concerns, staff included a request for additional funding as part of the FY21 CIP program. We were pleased to see that request was included in Mr. Carrington's proposed budget.

We understand the financial toll that the current COVID19 crisis may take on the Town's budget, particularly in the next year due to the heavy reliance on state revenues. However, if Mansfield is to continue to grow its grand list in an effort to decrease reliance on PILOT funds, it is imperative that we have regulations in place that will provide the necessary balance between growth and conservation that is embodied in the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development. Furthermore, updated regulations will provide better guidance to prospective developers as to what is expected, in terms of both review process and quality of design.

Accordingly, we respectfully request the Council's support for this project through the inclusion of this project in the FY21 CIP. Please contact feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the project or this communication.

Paul Aho

Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission

From:	Elizabeth Wassmundt
To:	Budget2021
Cc:	Town Council
Subject:	4/13/2020 meeting
Date:	Monday, April 13, 2020 12:47:04 PM

I will not be possible for me to participate in this evening's meeting during Public Speaking/Public Hearing but I trust the council will consider my comments.

In a previous communication, I addressed my opinion that there should be no new positions provided for in this budget; I let that opinion stand.

The overtime in the Fire Dept. is a real issue to me. For several years I listened to the discussion that the Fire Dept. needed to add more firemen. I always felt that council should listen to the person administering that department so I was in favor of this. Last year when I was on the council I had the opportunity to speak in favor of adding firemen. Last year it was explained that with additional firemen, it would be possible to reduce the high cost of overtime. This year, the budget shows a large increase to overtime supposedly due to the recently agreed to union contract. Council did not like that contract for many reasons but refused to stand up to the union and accepted the contract. Now the financial ramifications are showing up. I am wondering this. Has it been the case all along that the firemen like the overtime ($$$) and it was just management that wanted to increase the number of firemen and decrease the overtime budget. When council agreed with management and provided for extra employees, then the firemen did an end run around everyone via their union contract. (I know, some people in town hall will blame the union contract on the former town manager but let's not do that. He's not here to explain what , even "if," he did what he's blamed for.) I say that what is happening with overtime is just greed on the part of the full time firemen and that is unacceptable. Despite the union contract, the "union" is the firemen subscribers; they can control their own actions. I urge this council to reduce the budget of the Fire Dept. by twice the amount of the increase that is shown from last year's budget to this year's. Let the union subscribers decide how they want to reduce their budget. Don't require all town taxpayers to pay for greed.

Given the current corona virus impact to the economy and lack of mobility within the community. I expect Parks & Rec. to take a big dollar hit. Under no circumstance should this council just increase the tax burden to make Parks & Rec whole. It's time to review that entire program, especially the "health club." The health club as a self-supporting entity was never viable. At this time, there is the added impact of the Silver Sneakers program. The "health club" should be closed directly. This council should ***not*** include the $ loss of Parks & Rec in its budget for all taxpayers to pay.

I request that this council delay, for as long as possible, a decision about the budget so as to incorporate as much financial information as possible into your decisions.

Thank you,

Betty Wassmundt

From:	Marla Hauslaib
To:	Budget2021
Subject:	Community Center/ Parks and Recreation
Date:	Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:26:52 PM

The idea that this Department alone of all Departments should be self sustaining is a faulty premise. Parks and Recreation and the Community Center are integral to our community and the quality of our lives. This Department should have town monies allotted in the Town Budget to offset any operating costs that the Department does not receive thru it's annual revenue.

Sent from my iPhone

From: James Knox
To: Budget2021
Subject: Parks and Rec (Community Center) budget hearing
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 12:36:07 PM

I write to ask that the town increase its support for the Community Center, to account for the loss of insurance revenue from older users. I think most of us Silver Sneaker folks would be able to pay a user fee of $100-200 per year, if asked.

I must say, however, that it's not apparent how we can make a donation to MCC via the town's webpage. I tried, but with no success so far.

James R. Knox
146 Birch Road
Storrs, CT 06268
860-429-8288
860-208-6605 cell

From: Robert Beach
To: Budget2021
Subject: Parks and Recreation Budget
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 10:44:36 AM

Dear Sirs:

Please add my voice to those enthusiastically supporting the Parks and Recreation Program. My family and I have immensely enjoyed several programs, especially early morning workouts at the Community Center, Family Fun Night and Camp Mansfield. The strong recreation program is a primary reason for wanting to live in Mansfield.

I understand that the program is under financial duress. I would be happy to pay higher taxes to support the program; I am, for what it is worth, putting a check in the mail today as a donation to the recreation program.

I hope the Council can avoid dashing the hopes of so many residents who benefit from the programs.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Beach, Jr.
81 Hanks Hill Road
Storrs, CT. 06268

From:	Dorothea Anagnostopoulos
To:	Budget2021
Subject:	support for Parks and Recreation budget to sustain Community Center
Date:	Monday, April 13, 2020 1:57:22 PM

Dear Council members,
I am writing in support of any efforts the Council can make to sustain the Mansfield Community Center. I understand that, though there has been a steady increase in membership, the current resource allocation is not able to sustain the Community Center for a number of reasons, many of which are externally driven.

One of the first things that my family and I did when we moved to Mansfield seven years ago was to join the Community Center. The Center has been vital to our physical and mental well-being. This has never been clearer than in our current moment when the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the Center's closure. My family and I miss being able to go to the Center everyday of this quarantine. We would be devastated if the Center closed permanently.

We also believe that the Center is critical to the community of Mansfield. Members of my family work at and have attended UCONN, where we could use the gym facilities. We know we could also go to the newly opened Planet Fitness in the Edgebrook mall. We have always felt it is important, however, to belong to the Community Center as a way to be part of the Mansfield community. The Center is a place where we not only can maintain our physical health but where we interact with our neighbors and learn of community events and initiatives that we can be part of. The Center plays a critical role in sustaining the Mansfield community in ways that few organizations, other than our schools, can do so.

I know that there will be many difficult budget decisions to make because of the pandemic and its economic impacts. I urge you to consider ways to keep the Community Center open. The Center is critical to the well-being of Mansfield residents and to the vitality and life of the Mansfield community.

Sincerely,
Dorothea Anagnostopoulos
26 Ellise Road
Mansfield, CT 06268