

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

DRAFT 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, Fratoni, Freudmann, Moran, Schurin, Shaiken
Excused: Kochenburger

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Shaiken seconded to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Motion **passed** unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Proposed Land Swap with Joshua's Trust (Sawmill Brook and Wolf Rock Preserves) Item #9D, 8-10-20 Agenda)

The Town Clerk read the legal notice. Mayor Moran asked for comments. Interim Town Manager John Carrington read a letter from Elizabeth Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, into the record (see attached). Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

B. Wetlands Citation Ordinance (Item #9B, 8-10-20 Agenda)

The Town Clerk read the legal notice. Mayor Moran asked for comments. No comments were offered and the public hearing was closed.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

None.

6. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Interim Town Manager John Carrington presented his written report. The report is available online at www.MansfieldCT.gov and is on file with the Town Clerk.

7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Moran noted Mansfield's loss with the recent passing of Don Wetherell and recognized his contributions to the Town's trails and parks, especially his

service on the Parks Advisory Committee and work on Schoolhouse Brook Park. Mayor Moran also reported she has been to the Storrs Farmers Market recently and the food is wonderful.

Mr. Bruder expressed his appreciation for the work of the Superintendent and Mansfield Board of Education staff.

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded to move new business item 9A to follow old business item 8B. Motion **passed** unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Land Swap with Joshua's Trust (Sawmill Brook and Wolf Rock Preserves) Item #9D, 8-10-20 Agenda)

Senior Planner Jennifer Kaufman presented a map depicting the proposed swap and answered Councilor questions. Councilors discussed the value of the property and debated the merits of the land swap.

Mr. Schurin **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded to authorize the Interim Town Manager to execute required documents to convey a 1.19-acre lot fronting on Crane Hill Road (Assessor's Parcel ID 28.96.5-A) to Joshua's Trust and to acquire a 1.854-acre parcel of non-frontage forested land in the vicinity of Jacob's Hill Road (Assessor's Parcel ID 33.97.1230A). The conveyance by the Town of the 1.19-acre lot fronting on Crane Hill Road shall be subject to a deed restriction requiring the property to remain in its natural state with a publicly accessible trail and shall include provisions for signage, trail maintenance, invasive species control and forest management. Should Joshua's Trust be unable or unwilling to hold this property in such state then it shall revert back to the Town of Mansfield. Motion **passed** with all in favor except Ausburger, Fratoni, and Freudmann who voted against.

B. Wetlands Citation Ordinance (Item #9B, 8-10-20 Agenda)

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded to suspend rule 6(d) of the Council Rules of Procedure to allow consideration and action on the Wetlands Citation Ordinance. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Mr. Bruder **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded, effective September 29, 2020, to approve the proposed amendments to the Mansfield Wetlands Ordinance (Section 40- 6(B)(1)) which amendments shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield. Motion **passed** with all in favor except Ausburger and Freudmann who voted against.

C. Appointment of Interim Town Manager (Item #9A, 6-22-20 Agenda)

Mr. Bruder **moved** and Mr. Freudmann seconded to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, pursuant to Chapter C501(B)(2) of the Mansfield Town Charter, to appoint John C. Carrington to continue to serve as Interim Town Manager for the Town of Mansfield for an additional 90 days, commencing on October 8, 2020. During-the period in which he serves as Interim Town Manager, Mr. Carrington's salary shall be increased by 10% and his other employment-related benefits as a regular nonunion employee shall remain in place. At the conclusion of his service as interim Town Manager, Mr. Carrington shall return to his position as Director of Public Works and Town Engineer with the salary and employment-related benefits assigned to that position. Motion **passed** unanimously.

D. COVID-19 Update (Item #8A, 5-11-20 Agenda)

Robert L. Miller, Director of Health, Eastern Highland Health District, provided the Council with an update on COVID-19 in Mansfield with a focus on The Oaks and the UConn campus and answered Councilor questions regarding existing support for and the process involved with handling positive cases.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Town Manager

Mayor Moran reviewed the recruitment process and contract highlights.

Mr. Bruder **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, to appoint Ryan Aylesworth to the position of Town Manager effective December 1, 2020; and effective September 29, 2020, to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached Town Manager Employment Agreement with Ryan Aylesworth, which shall commence on December 1, 2020. Motion **passed** with all in favor except Ausburger and Freudmann who voted against.

B. Fire Study Briefing

Steven Knight of Fitch & Associates presented the results of the fire department operational and staffing assessment and answered Councilor questions along with Fire Chief Raiola.

C. FY 2019/20 Proposed Yearend Transfers

Mr. Shaiken, by recommendation of the Finance Committee, **moved**, effective September 29, 2020, to approve the Yearend Budget Transfers for FY 2019/20, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated September 23, 2020. Motion **passed** unanimously.

D. Proposed Capital Improvement Program Adjustments FY 19/20

Mr. Shaiken, by recommendation of the Finance Committee, **moved**, effective September 29, 2020, to approve the adjustments to the Capital Projects fund,

as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated September 23, 2020. Motion **passed** unanimously.

E. Financial Statements Dated June 30, 2020

Mr. Shaiken, by recommendation of the Finance Committee, **moved**, effective September 29, 2020, to accept the Financial Statements dated June 30, 2020. Motion **passed** unanimously.

F. Proposed Capital Improvement Program Adjustments FY 20/21

Mr. Shaiken, by recommendation of the Finance Committee, **moved**, effective September 29, 2020, to approve the adjustments to the Capital Projects fund, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated September 23, 2020. Motion **passed** unanimously.

G. FY 20/21 Non Union Personnel Employer/Employee Insurance Share Percentages

Ms. Berthelot, by recommendation of the Personnel Committee, **moved**, effective September 29, 2020, to endorse a decrease by 1% of the Town's contribution to the medical plan premiums and a 1% increase to the Non-Union employees' contribution to the medical plan premiums effective January 1, 2021. Motion **passed** unanimously.

H. FY 20/21 Non-Union Personnel and Department Head Vacation Leave Allotments

Ms. Berthelot, by recommendation of the Personnel Committee, **moved**, effective September 29, 2020 to endorse a vacation leave accrual increase for non-union personnel and Department Heads effective November 1, 2020. Motion **passed** unanimously.

I. Non-Union Personnel Longevity Payments for New Hires

Ms. Berthelot, by recommendation of the Personnel Committee, **moved**, effective September 29, 2020 to endorse removing the longevity advancement pay for Non-Union employees hired on or after November 1, 2020. Motion **passed** with all in favor except Schurin who voted against.

10. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

11. DEPARTMENTAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

12. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Storrs Center August 2020 Financial Report (9/14/20)

B. V. Walton: Mansfield Recycling Coordinator - Memo re: Solar For All Mansfield Windham Update (9/18/20)

C. T. Katsouleas: President, UConn - letter to Mayor Moran (9/23/20)

D. M. Levine: Government Finance Officers Association letter re: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (9/25/20)

13. FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bruder **moved** and Mr. Schurin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Mayor

Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk

Sara-Ann Chaine

From: Elizabeth Wassmundt <etwno1@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Town Mngr; Town Council; Sara-Ann Chaine
Subject: Public Hearing, Land Swap

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning All:

I expect this communication to be read as part of the Public Hearing.

I went to review documents about this land swap in "the Packet" to find that the information is at town hall which is not open except by appointment or at mansfieldct.gov. If it is at mansfieldct.gov, it is not evident to me. So, I speak without good research. Maybe a previous packet has the info but I don't have time to look for it.

Be very careful about doing this land swap. I can see no reason to do it. I believe that all of these properties are contiguous. Why should there be **any** reason to change ownership of any one of these properties? The town should not give up control of a parcel of land which has road access under any circumstance. If the town does not own the property, the town does **not** control the use of it. Do not do it.

Now, based on past experience, I expect that the Republicans will be opposed to this swap likely for the reasons I have given and maybe for other reasons and, the Democrats will want to do it likely because they have friends on Joshua's Trust or maybe Jennifer says it's okay. Should the Democrats vote to do this swap, PLEASE, **at least** put in the deed a restriction to the effect that the property can never be sold by Joshua's Trust and that the access ways and trails can never be changed excepting by agreement with the town and must be maintained by Joshua's Trust or the property reverts back to ownership by the town.

For once, please do what is in the interest of the general Mansfield public, the taxpayers. The town, taxpayers, now own a good property, just keep it that way.

I am a fan of Joshua's Trust and have arranged, at this point anyway, to donate my property to them in the future but the town should not do this swap.

Please, don't give the store away.

Betty Wassmundt
Old Turnpike Road
Storrs, CT