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BLOOMFIELD CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission held on Tuesday October 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall Council Chambers, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Committee Members present: ***In-Person:*** Joseph Suggs, Chair, Bradley Klein, Elvin Turner, Dwight Bolton ***via Zoom:*** Erica Coleman

Committee Members absent: None

Also present were: ***In-Person***—Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; ***via Zoom:*** Town Attorney Andrew Crumbie, Crumbie Law

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Ordinances and Referendums (Chapter 3, Section 308)

Chair Suggs and the Commissioners discussed the proposed reduction of the petition threshold required to initiate a referendum on ordinances and appropriations passed pursuant to Section 307. Commissioner Klein questioned the existing 15% voter-participation requirement and sought clarification regarding the distinction between the petition threshold and the total voter participation required for a referendum. Attorney Crumbie clarified that removing the word "certain" would not broaden the provision, as the reference to ordinances passed pursuant to Section 307 already establishes its scope. Chair Suggs and Commissioners discussed the balance between citizen participation and maintaining the Council's governing authority. Commissioner Turner supported reducing the petition threshold from 7.5% to 4% of qualified electors, while retaining the 15% voter-participation requirement for the referendum. Commissioner Klein expressed concerns about potentially weakening the Council's authority but acknowledged the clarification provided.

It was moved by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Klein and voted unanimously to retain the Commission's prior proposal to reduce the petition threshold to 4% while maintaining the 15% voter-participation requirement. The motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Referendums on Bond Issues (Chapter 3, Section 310)

Chair Suggs and the Commissioners discussed proposed revisions to the referendum requirements for bond issues and non-budgeted appropriations. Commissioner Klein proposed striking the word "not" from Section 310, Subsection 2, which would require at least 15% of qualified electors to participate in a referendum for a bond issue or non-budgeted appropriation to be deemed approved. Under this approach, voters opposed to the proposal would need to participate and vote against it rather than relying on low voter turnout to prevent approval. Commissioners Turner and Bolton expressed support for retaining the 15% participation threshold, with Commissioner Bolton noting concerns about voter apathy and the importance of public participation. The Commissioners also briefly revisited the notice requirements and previously discussed referendum timeframes.

It was moved by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Commissioner Bolton who accepted the amendment and voted unanimously to revise Section 310, Subsection 2, by striking the word "not," subject to appropriate wording and review by the Town Attorney and Council. The motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Bolton, seconded by Commissioner Turner and voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

Brief Comments

Chair Suggs advised the Commission that he had received an email from Mayor Harrington identifying three to four Charter sections that the Council requested be reviewed. He indicated that he would ensure the information was distributed to all Commissioners. The Commissioners then discussed scheduling its next meeting. Commissioner Turner advised that he would be unavailable for a 7:00 p.m. start but could attend at 6:00 p.m. Chair Suggs agreed to check whether the meeting time could be adjusted and confirm Chamber availability. The next regular meeting was identified as November 24 at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted as a special meeting for 6:00 P.M.

Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Commissioner Turner and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.