Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the above reference held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting format via Zoom webinar virtual platform. The in-person location was Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Councilors present: Mayor Anthony Harrington; Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Darrell Goodwin; Joseph Merritt; Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; Elizabeth Waterhouse; ***via Zoom:*** Todd Cooper; Shamar Mahon; Michael Oliver

Councilors absent: None

Others present*: In-Person:* Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; Jon Colman, Building & Land Use Director; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney, Crumbie Law Group, LLC; Darrell Hill, Chief Financial Officer; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant.

Guest(s): None

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Harrington reviewed the public hearing ordinance to solicit input on revisions to Chapter 19 (Oversized Restrictions Ordinance), Sections 19-65 through 19-73 in the Town of Bloomfield. The floor was open for in person and online statements. There were no statements presented.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to close any statements.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. **Presentation- Citation: recognition of resident student athlete, Maeve Staunton**

Mayor Harrington presented an Excellence Award citation honoring Bloomfield resident Maeve Staunton of Northwest Catholic High School for her exceptional achievements as a student athlete, leadership, and sportsmanship. He highlighted her decorated career, including All-

Conference, All-State, and All-New England honors, Gametime CT Player of the Year recognition, High School All-American distinction, and her commitment to the University of Connecticut women's soccer program. On behalf of the Town Council, Mayor Harrington formally congratulated Ms. Staunton and extended best wishes for her continued success, with the citation dated January 12, 2026.

B. Presentation- Town of Bloomfield's Standard & Poors Credit Rating

Chief Financial Officer Darrell Hill reported that Standard & Poor's downgraded the Town of Bloomfield's credit rating one notch from AA+ to AA and placed the Town on CreditWatch Negative, citing persistent delays in the completion of annual audits and recent turnover in key financial and management positions. He emphasized that the Town remains in a strong investment-grade category and that its economy, fund balance, and financial performance were identified by S&P as continuing strengths. Mr. Hill provided an update on efforts to complete the FY2024 and FY2025 audits within the coming months and reviewed the Town's current debt service schedule, and strategies are in place to manage upcoming peak debt payments. Presentation can be found on the Town of Bloomfield website under "Truth and Transparency".

Citizens' Statements and Petitions

Statements by members of the public may be oral or written and shall start with the speaker's name and address and shall continue for no longer than three (3) minutes, unless permitted by the Mayor or councilor presiding.

The Clerk of Council opened the floor for citizens' statements and petitions. Residents expressed concerns about various town issues during the council meeting.

1. **Robert Berman, 8 Hiran Lane,** addressed the Town Council regarding alleged conflicts with the Town Charter, including the placement of council members on a housing ordinance committee and the residency requirement of the Town Manager, asserting that Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp Jr. continues to reside in Simsbury in violation of his contract. He requested written clarification by January 31, 2026, on how the residency matter had been resolved and stated he would take further action if not addressed. Mr. Berman also urged the Council to place the Town Manager on administrative leave due to a pending court case involving allegations of misconduct and submitted supporting materials for the record.

2. **Gail Riley, 8 Maple Ave.,** expressed dissatisfaction with past and present Town Council actions, stating that for over a year the Chief Financial Officer had requested funding for an additional accountant, which was not approved. Ms. Riley stated that the lack of staffing contributed to the Town's recent credit rating downgrade and urged the Council to allocate funds to add an accountant position to the Finance Department.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

A. **Governance, Policy & Economic Development-** Mayor Harrington reported that on January 7th the Council received a status update on the Rockwell Park Improvement Project, noting that Phase 1 and Phase 2 would proceed with current funding focused on courts, parking, and site infrastructure, while additional funding would be sought to complete the

athletic fields. The Council also heard from the Director of Building and Land Use regarding multiple ongoing and proposed development projects, including approved and planned housing developments with both affordable and market-rate units, as well as new commercial investments within the Town.

B. **Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding-** Deputy Mayor Lloyd reported that reported that no meeting was held in December due to the holiday schedule and that the next meeting would occur on the third Tuesday of the month in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, with meetings typically held on the third Monday thereafter. Deputy Mayor noted that upcoming discussions would include further review of the proposed senior accountant position, including job duties and compensation, as well as follow-up items from the Chief Financial Officer's presentation.

C. **Public Health, Safety, & Environment-** Councilor Cooper provided the December report out from the Blue Hills Fire District, EMS, Center Fire District, along with reports from the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee and the Bloomfield–West Hartford Health District. Discussion included the taxation of volunteer stipends exceeding $600 and a request for the Finance Committee and Chief Financial Officer to explore alternatives through the budget process. Public health updates were provided, noting the availability of seasonal vaccinations through the Health District and local senior centers.

D. **Education, Workforce, Youth Development, & Community Services-** Councilor Oliver reported on the collaboration with community-based organizations, park, recreation and leisure services with more workforce development discussion for the town and youth are underway.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, second by Mayor Harrington and voted to approve minutes for September 25, 2025- Special Meeting

VOTE: **AYE:** A. Harrington, C. Lloyd, T. Cooper, D. Goodwin, S. Mahon, J. Merritt, M. Oliver, E. Waterhouse
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: S. DeBeatham-Brown

Motion passes 8-0-1

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, second by Mayor Harrington, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from December 8, 2025.

B. Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Mayor Harrington and voted unanimously to Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

OLD BUSINESS

2026-14: Consider and Take Action Regarding Staffing a Senior Accountant Position for the Department of Finance

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, second by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, and voted unanimously to approve staffing a Senior Accountant Position for the Department of Finance.

2026-32: Consider and Take Action Regarding Proposed Revisions of Oversized Vehicle Traffic Ordinance, Sections 19-65 through 19-73 of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinances

There was discussion amongst the Councilors for clarity on suspending the rules.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, second by Councilor Mahon, and voted unanimously, to suspend the rules and take in Consideration and Take Action Regarding the Proposed Revisions of Oversized Vehicle Traffic Ordinance, sections 19-65 through 19-73 of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinances.

NEW BUSINESS

2026-37: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Town Council Rules of Procedures

2026-38: Consider and Take Action Regarding the 2026-2027 Proposed Town Council Meeting Schedule

The items under new business were presented, discussed, and voted upon; however, no formal motion was made, and the matter remained unresolved. Accordingly, the item is being placed back on the agenda for formal action.

REPORT FROM DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Sharron Howe, Deputy Town Manager, reported that since the last Council meeting, the Town hired five employees across Social and Youth Services, the Police Department, and the library, and provided an update on Freedom of Information requests, noting 131 received in 2025 and two received in 2026, with most currently open. She announced the launch of the Town's digital quarterly newsletter, In Bloom, along with the Senior Services newsletter, Bloomfield Silver Scoop, and highlighted upcoming community programming at the libraries. Additional updates included continued interest from developers, discussions on extending Town Hall pilot hours, and notice of Town offices being closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Harrington asked for a moment of silence in honor of Shirley Yvonne Paige Williams, recognizing her extensive contributions to the community, including leadership roles on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Philly Park Committee, and as a member of the Bloomfield Democratic Committee and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Due to the nature of the internet system upgrade, council comments were eliminated allowing room for the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, second by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 9:08 p.m.

Item – Pending Claims and Litigation

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, second by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to end executive session at 9:59 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, second by Councilor Waterhouse, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m.