Town Council Special Meeting Agenda

Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor
Cindi A. Lloyd, Deputy Mayor
Darrell Goodwin
Elizabeth A. Waterhouse
Joseph P. Merritt
Michael J. Oliver
Shamar A. Mahon
Suzette DeBeatham-Brown
Todd E. Cooper

Monday, February 2, 2026, 5:00 pm
Town Hall – Council Chambers • 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting of the Town of Bloomfield will be a ZOOM ONLY meeting. This means that you can attend by using the Zoom link below or viewing the meeting via YouTube

https://bloomfieldct.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__S7VbUvMTeeg_ySNB7BzCQ

YouTube:

https://youtube.com/live/ilCJV_jFFyE?feature=share

AGENDA

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

III. Council Business

IV. Old Business

2026-39: Discussion and Possible Action regarding Initiating the Charter Revision Process

2026-40: Discussion and Possible Action regarding establishing the Charter Revision Commission and Appointing its members

V. Adjournment

TO: Town Councilors

FROM: Alvin D. Schwapp, Town Manager

DATE: January 27, 2026

RE: FY2026-39 APPOINTMENTS AND CHARGE TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

As you know, the Town has been engaged in the Charter revision process for approximately the past year and a half. During this time, the Town has received extensive feedback from both residents and staff. We want to assure the community that this input has been carefully considered. Updating the Town Charter is among the Council's most significant responsibilities, and the Council remains committed to undertaking this work thoroughly and thoughtfully.

As part of the required process, the Council previously voted on whether to place a Charter revision question on the November 2025 ballot. This action was a procedural step intended to preserve the option of pursuing Charter revisions; it did not obligate the Town to proceed with the revisions as drafted. The vote served as a procedural step to keep the option available; it did not obligate the Town to proceed with the revisions as drafted (attached).

Since that time, and with the benefit of the Finance Director and other new staff now having served in their roles for several months to over a year, additional areas of the Charter have been identified for further review based on current operational practices. In the interest of completeness rather than expediency, the Town is taking this opportunity to revisit the Charter with a fresh and comprehensive perspective. The goal is to develop a strong document that reflects the needs and priorities of residents, the governing body, and staff.

Should Council wish to move forward, the following motion will be in order:

Motion #1 – I move that the Bloomfield Town Council, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 7-187 through 7-191, and the Bloomfield Town Charter, hereby Initiate the Charter Review process. (need a 2/3 vote to approve)

Motion #2 - Move to approve the Appointments of the Charter Revision Commission and Set the Charge.

RESOLUTION TO INITIATE CHARTER REVISION PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Town of Bloomfield, acting herein by its Town Council, desires to initiate a review and possible amendment of its Charter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with General Statutes§ 7-188, and Section 1004 of the Bloomfield Town Charter, the Bloomfield Town Council does hereby, by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members, establish a Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission which will consist of five (5) members. *[The names of those members hereby appointed to the Charter Revision Commission are: Joseph Suggs, Jr., Elvin Turner, Bradley Klein, Erica Coleman, Dwight Bolton*.]

Each of the members of the Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission shall be electors of the Town of Bloomfield, no more than one-third of whom may hold any public office in the municipality and not more than a bare majority of whom shall be members of any one political party, which commission shall proceed forthwith to draft amendments to the existing charter as the case may be. The Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission may appoint officers from among its members, shall keep detailed records of its deliberations, and may adopt regulations and rules of procedure. The members of the Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission shall serve without compensation. The Bloomfield Town Council may remove any member of the Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission at any time in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 703 of the Bloomfield Town Charter".

The Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission shall consider all recommendations received from the Bloomfield Town Council.

The Bloomfield Charter Revision Commission shall submit a progress report of its business at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Bloomfield Town Council, in accordance with General Statutes§ 7-190 (b), directs the following charges to the Charter Revision Commission:

1. Review Section 201 of the Charter to consider adding a Registrar of Voters.
2. Review Section 308 to consider clarifying and changing language regarding budget referendums.
3. Review Section 502 to consider removing residency requirement for Town Manager.
4. Review Section 503 to consider changing language to expedite selection of Town Attorney.
5. Consider restructuring
6. Review technical changes as may be recommended by Town staff.

The review of the Town Charter by the Charter Revision Commission is not restricted to the areas identified above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Bloomfield Town Council, that the Charter Revision Commission shall submit to the Bloomfield Town Clerk its draft report no later than May 11, 2026.