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 March 9, 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

Councilor(s): *In-person*: Mayor Anthony Harrington; ***via Zoom;*** Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Todd Cooper (7:04 p.m.); Darrell Goodwin; Joseph Merritt; Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; Shamar Mahon (7:04 p.m.); Michael Oliver.

Councilor(s): *Absent*: Elizabeth Waterhouse

Others present- *In-person:* Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; India Rogers, Director of Operations & Communications; Darrell Hill, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Jon Colman, Director Building & Land Use; Camilla Hilliman, Director Bloomfield Social and Youth Services; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney, Crumbie Law Group, LLC; Denise Robidoux and Dave Driver, Goman + York: ***via Zoom:*** From Goman + York, Mike Goman and June LaFoutain.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRESENTATIONS

A. Announcement:

Appointment of Sub-registrar Michael Weinstein of Weinstein Mortuary made in Accordance with CGS 7-65

Mayor Anthony C. Harrington expressed appreciation to Bloomfield High School for its upcoming choir presentation. He formally announced the appointment of Michael Weinstein as Sub-Registrar for the Town of Bloomfield in accordance with CGS 7-65.

B. Presentations:

Bloomfield Junior Warhawk

Mr. Trevor Ford, President of the Bloomfield Junior Warhawks, along with Founder Mr. James Jenkins and Vice President Mr. Quentin McDonald, addressed the Council to express appreciation for municipal support, highlighting the program's growth over five years and its

positive impact on youth through football and cheer. They noted significant achievements, including regional championships, national rankings, and expansion to multiple teams, attributing success to community partnerships and Town resources. Mayor Harrington commended the organization's accomplishments, noted strong community participation, and indicated that a formal citation recognizing their success would be forthcoming.

Proclamation Recognizing Black History Month

Mayor Harrington read a proclamation recognizing February 2026 as Black History Month in the Town of Bloomfield, honoring the history, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans locally and nationally. The proclamation acknowledged the impact of Black residents on the town's civic, cultural, educational, and economic development, while reaffirming a commitment to equity, inclusion, and addressing ongoing inequities. Residents were encouraged to continue participating in activities that celebrate and recognize these contributions beyond the month of February.

Black History Presentation

Mayor Harrington introduced the Bloomfield High School choir, noting their recent performance and inviting them to present under the direction of Ms. Lisa Clayton. The choir performed **"**Lift Every Voice and Sing**"** in recognition of Black History Month, followed by **"**The Star-Spangled Banner**."**

Ms. Tiffany Wright, Assistant Youth Services Coordinator, introduced a group of youth from Project 330 and other Youth Services programs, who performed a Black History skit titled *"A World Without Black People."* The skit illustrated the significant contributions of Black inventors and leaders by depicting a world lacking essential everyday innovations, emphasizing the profound impact of Black history on modern life.

Following the performances, Mayor Harrington and Council members commended the students for their outstanding presentation and expressed appreciation for their participation.

Goman & York Updates on Town Plans

Ms. Denise Robidoux, Executive VP and COO, and Mr. Dave Driver, Senior VP of Business Development of Goman + York, provided an update on Bloomfield's economic development efforts, highlighting the Town Center Plan, community engagement, and ongoing initiatives to attract and support housing and business growth. They emphasized business retention as a priority, citing successful expansions by Cigna, Trader Joe's, and Pepperidge Farm, while also supporting small businesses and connecting them with state resources to promote job creation and tax revenue for the town.

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.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown requested that the Town Council take a moment of thought and prayers to the house explosion on Banbury Lane and to the affected family and residents, noting ongoing hardships such as power outages in the area. The Town Council observed a moment of reflection in support of the community.

There were no public comments from in-person or online during this session.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development- Mayor Anthony C. Harrington

Mayor Harrington reported that the draft Boards and Commissions SOP, originally discussed in February, will be presented at the next regular Council meeting. He also noted updates from Mr. Coleman on business development, highlighting increased economic activity and multiple ongoing projects with developers working through the Planning Department.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding- Deputy Mayor Cindi A. Lloyd

Deputy Mayor Lloyd provided the monthly and year-to-date fiscal update, noting that the 2024 audit is in its final review stages with an expected clearance by the end of March, which would remove the town from the state watch list. She also reported that departmental budget preparations for 2025 are underway, and a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 16 to provide further updates on the audits and active budget.

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment- Councilor Todd E. Cooper

Councilor Cooper provided an update on the recent Public Safety and Health Committee meeting from February, highlighting updates from the Police Department on local incidents, including larcenies and a non-fatal shooting, as well as Fire Department activity, training, and their upcoming 100th anniversary. Updates were also provided on the town's Conservation, Energy, and Environment initiatives, including the Tree City application and sustainability programs, and the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District's public health efforts, such as vaccination monitoring, infectious disease tracking, and community wellness programs. The upcoming meeting is Wednesday March 11 at 6:00 p.m.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services- Councilor Michael J. Oliver

Councilor Oliver reported that 330 Park discussed various ongoing town programs, including a robotics initiative in collaboration with the Town Council and Board of Education. She also noted an upcoming Workforce Education Development meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. March 10.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes
- February 2, 2026- Special Meeting
- February 9, 2026- Special Meeting

B. Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds
- February 2026
- March 2026

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Goodwin, and voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

2026-41: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Schedule- FY 2027 Budget Meetings

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Goodwin, and voted unanimously to adopt the schedule-FY 2027 Budget Meetings.

2026-42: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution (Town Council Initiative-Trades Program/Robotics Program) with MakerspaceCT Program Fund Transfer

It was moved by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Mahon, and voted unanimously to table this discussion for more clarification of the item.

2026:43: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution for the Town of Bloomfield's Membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)

Mr. Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use, presented a resolution for the Town of Bloomfield to join the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA), explaining that the authority provides technical and funding assistance to support economic development and town center revitalization. Councilors discussed the process for public input, with some advocating for a formal public hearing and others supporting a presentation with a question-and-answer session to allow residents to ask questions.

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, and voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for comment. Once completed, the Town Council will act on the adoption of resolution for the Town of Bloomfield's Membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA).

REPORT FROM TOWN MANAGER

On behalf of Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp Jr., Town Manager, Mr. Darrell Hill, Chief Finance Officer/Director of Finance reported highlighted several town updates recognizing the Bloomfield Public Library's Prosser project for receiving the 2026 Build Connecticut Award, with special acknowledgment to Library Director Ms. Elizabeth Lane and Library Building Committee Chair Mr. Mark Wiseman for their leadership and dedication. He also noted the upcoming Employee of the Year recognition for 2025, honoring the four quarterly winners. Director Hill highlighted recent community events, including Read Across America at Laurel Literacy Academy—attended by Mayor Harrington, Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, Town Manager Schwab, and Ms. Elizabeth Lane—and the She Leads GOV Virtual Summit, with special recognition to Ms. India Rogers, Director of Operations and Communications, for her coordination. Additionally, he shared information on the upcoming Feed the Children resource rally on April 16th, led by Mrs. Camilla Hillian, Director of Social and Youth Services, and provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2024 audit, now in its final stages

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Harrington reported on a visit to Bloomfield High School with the Governor and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, noting a Q&A session with students, musical performances, and a luncheon where he discussed high special education fees and support for lower-grade students impacted by COVID. He mentioned ongoing discussions about downtown development and potential CIF assistance, affordable housing, and highlighted a new development at 620 Cottage Grove Road, expected to create over 100 jobs, generate substantial tax revenue, and preserve 40% of the land, with a public reception scheduled for March 12th. He also noted The First Cathedral's three-phase affordable housing project, ongoing developments, and progress on the 164-unit building on Blue Hills Avenue, awaiting identification of a compliance officer.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Todd Cooper offered thoughts and prayers for the family affected by the recent house explosion, wishing for everyone's safety and hoping for a story of resilience to emerge.

Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown thanked the Town Manager, his staff, the Council, and the Town Attorney for a thoughtful gift supporting her recovery. She also reflected on a recent Education Committee public hearing regarding the education cost share, expressing disappointment that more Bloomfield residents and leaders did not attend, and emphasized the importance of proactively providing information to prevent misinformation from filling any void.

Councilor Shamar Mahon expressed sympathy for the family affected by the Banbury Lane explosion, noting personal familiarity with those involved. He extended prayers for their safety and well-being, acknowledged the wider impact on nearby residents, including power outages on his street, and wished everyone safety and a good evening.

Councilor Michael Oliver expressed sympathy for the community affected by the Banbury Lane explosion, acknowledging the difficulty of the situation and hoping for a safe and positive

outcome for all involved.

Councilor Joseph Merritt reflected on recent visits to historical sites and expressed concern about efforts to distort or minimize the history of slavery. He emphasized the continued importance of Black History Month to preserve accurate historical understanding.

Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse Absent

Councilor Darrell Goodwin acknowledged and celebrated the talents of the young people during Black History Month presentations, offered thoughts and prayers for residents affected by recent events, and highlighted the *In God's Backyard* initiative, noting support of faith-based partnerships to advance affordable housing in Bloomfield.

Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd expressed symphony and lifted the family and their loved ones in prayer.

Mayor Anthony Harrington expressed concern and prayers for the neighbor affected by the recent incident, thanked Lisa Clayton and the Bloomfield High School choir for performing both the Black National Anthem and the National Anthem, and highlighted ongoing town development efforts, including engagement with CMDA and upcoming projects such as the Cottage Grove Road development. He also invited residents to attend the developer's public meeting at 330 Park on Thursday to learn more and share questions or concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. Item – Pending Claims and Litigation. It was moved by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to end executive session at 9:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Merritt, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.