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 Thursday March 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

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

Councilor(s): *Absent*: Darrell Goodwin

Others Absent: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council

Others present- *In-person:* Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant, and ***via Zoom:*** Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to move Citizens' Statements and Petitions before New Business.

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. **Joaner Weidma, Park Ave.,** expressed concern about tractor-trailer trucks repeatedly traveling down School Street despite posted restrictions limiting such traffic to local deliveries. He reported that the heavy trucks are causing road damage and vibrations to his over-100-year-old home, and requested improved signage, possible flashing lights, or increased police enforcement to address the issue.

2. **Robert Berman, 8 Hiram Lane**, stated that two state education grant payments totaling approximately $2.64 million have not appeared in finance reports and expressed concern about the accuracy of financial reporting. He also requested responses to previously

raised issues, questioned the status of a draft audit reportedly submitted to the state, and indicated he would seek access to the document as a public record.

3. **Gail Riley, Maple Ave., (online),** expressed concern about the proposed robotics and trades program transfer, stating that such initiatives should be funded by the Board of Education rather than town taxpayer dollars. She also questioned the sustainability of using limited funds for the program and suggested those resources be prioritized for other municipal needs, such as financial staffing and timely audits.

4. **Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Rd, (online),** expressed support for the Makerspace fund transfer to the Trades in Robotics program, stating that partnerships and supplemental funding can enhance educational opportunities without replacing the Board of Education's budget. She noted that the program would provide hands-on learning, workforce development, and STEM-related skills, and encouraged the Town Council to support the initiative as an investment in students' future careers.

Councilors discussed the concerns from residence ensuring their questions are being heard.

Councilor Cooper addressed that during special meetings, changes to the agenda cannot be made.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown requested clarification on the urgency of the funding transfer, program budgets, and the number of students served, seeking a better understanding of the financial need and timing. Councilor Oliver explained that the $5,000 transfer was a one-time request from the Board of Education to complete funding for the robotics program, noting there is no ongoing Town budget for the initiative and expressing support for the community benefit.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd called the question, and Councilor Waterhouse seconded.

VOTE: **AYE:** T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, C. Lloyd, E. Waterhouse, A. Harrington

NAY: S. Mahon

ABSTAIN: None

The vote to call the question passed 7-1-0.

No motion was made to adopt the resolution. A subsequent meeting will be required to take action.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council, based on the Zoom Video Recording.