Minutes not yet approved.
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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6:30 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.

Councilors present were: *In-Person:* Mayor Harrington; Councilors Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon, Merritt, Oliver & Waterhouse; *via Zoom:* Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Councilor Goodwin

Councilors absent were: None

Also present were: *In-Person*—Dan Carter, Director of Public Works; Matt Childress, Facilities Manager; Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use; Dawn Cooper-Grodger, Assistant Director of Social & Youth Services; Luz Cora-Small, Assistant Director of Senior Services; Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; Ashley DeJesus, Tax Collector; Andrea DiStephan, Town Clerk; Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance; Camillia Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services; Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; Bruce Lajoie, Assistant Director of Information Technology & Innovation; Elizabeth Lane, Bloomfield Public Library Director; Lynda Laureano, Assistant Director of Building & Land Use; Matt Mace, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Rosa Matias, Director of Human Resources; Dave Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Vincentia Midodzi, Assessor; Warren Plumber, Director of Information Technology & Innovation; Kathy Roberts, Assistant Director of Human Resources; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; Kristian Rosado, Mini-Bus Coordinator; Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Chris Siloac, Bloomfield Public Library Assistant Director; Sharron Tai-Williams, Deputy Town Manager; Angelica Thompson, Youth Services Division Manager; Allison Wilkos, Bloomfield Public Library Assistant Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Harrington announced that the Town submitted the FY2024 audit to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. He reported that S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed Bloomfield's AA credit rating, and had removed the Town from credit watch.

Discussion and Action Regarding Move that the Town Council Appoint Su'Nia Bailey as an Alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved that Su'Nia Bailey be appointed as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Councilor Cooper seconded.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd spoke briefly in favor of the appointment.

Councilor Cooper moved that the Town Council appoint Su'Nia Bailey as the Zoning Board of Appeals alternate, Councilor Oliver seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Regarding the FY 2027 Budget Overview by Town Manager; Revenue, Expenditures, Fixed Charges; Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Senior Services; Social & Youth Services; Library Services

Budget Overview

Mr. Schwapp presented a high-level overview of the FY2027 Town Manager's proposed budget.

Council questions and comments included: if the Town Manager had received any specific budget directives; caution in tone of how information was presented; the importance of services in Town and the importance of taking care of residents; a request for staffing information from previous years; looking at how the impact of the budget on working families, seniors, and young people; and if there are ways to phase changes instead of making them all at once.

Revenue, Expenditures, and Fixed Charges

Mr. Hill presented the FY2027 Town Manager's proposed budget for revenue, expenditures, and fixed charges.

Council questions and comments included: what items are included in contractual services, with a request for more detail to be included; additional information on the reserves for accruals; estimation of what the unassigned fund balance will be on July 1 and potentially using fund balance in the budget; additional information about the reduction in debt service; how to make adjustments without compromising the Town's fiscal stability; if proposed cuts strengthen financial stability long-term; potential incentives for employees of retirement eligibility; spreading any needed cuts wholistically and equitably; and right-sizing the organization.

There was a five-minute break.

Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services

Mr. Melesko presented the FY2027 Town Manager's proposed budget for Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services.

Council questions and comments included: what services remained in the proposed budget; the value of all that occurs at 330 Park Ave. to the community; the possibility of reducing programming rather than eliminating it; if the Town pool is an income driver; the possibility of opening the pool for reduced hours; the long-term idea of having an indoor pool that could generate income year-round; and potential impact to the summer youth employment program.

Mr. Melesko briefly reported on proposed budget modifications.

Council questions and comments included: why the proposed grant writer would be in this department; if a grant writer could be utilized across all departments; requests from residents for a Town dog park; and a potential public dog park being built by a local developer.

Senior Services

Ms. Huyghue-Pannell presented the FY2027 Town Manager's proposed budget for Senior Services.

Council questions and comments included: noting that Bloomfield is an aging Town; the impact of upcoming changes to SNAP and Medicaid, with additional support potentially needed; the importance of

seniors being able to live out their lives with dignity; research that shows the impact of reduced services on seniors and youth, particularly those on the margins; the budget as a moral document; the possibility of asking for donations for mini-bus rides; if product/snack donations would be helpful; energy cost distribution at 330 Park Ave; and the support mini-bus drivers give at Town Hall events.

Social & Youth Services

Ms. Hillian presented the FY2027 Town Manager's proposed budget for Social & Youth Services.

Council questions and comments included: the need for support with SNAP and Medicaid changes coming; the need for the youth diversion program; if food bank distribution would be impacted; the importance of the support that families receive from social services, specifically the foster care program; and how the youth diversion program works, with its cost.

Ms. Hillian provided information on an upcoming food resource event.

Library Services

Ms. Lane presented the FY2027 Town Manager's proposed budget for Library Services.

Questions and comments from Councilors included: the number of library card users; the possibility of the library being open every day of the week; the impact that additional staff would have on the library; the number of visits at each location, and how the numbers are calculated; and the possibility of sharing part-time employees across municipalities.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary, based on the Zoom Video Recording.

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at https://www.youtube.com/live/0E6j5aLyybQ