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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Wednesday, April 22, 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; Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Councilors Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon, Merritt, Oliver & Waterhouse; *and via Zoom:* Councilor Goodwin

Councilors absent were: None

Also present were: *In-Person*—Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; Bruce Lajoie, Assistant Director of Information Technology & Innovation; Elizabeth Lane, Director of Bloomfield Public Library; Rosa Matias, Director of Human Resources; David Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Vinci Midodzi, Assessor; Warren Plumber, Director of Information Technology & Innovation; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools; *and via Zoom*—Daniel Carter, Director of Public Works; Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; Camillia Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services; Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services; Stephen Hajdasz, Deputy Chief of Police

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding the FY 2027 Budget – Council Deliberations (Part 4)

Dr. Tracy Youngberg reviewed the information she presented in her previous Bloomfield Public Schools proposed budget, and spoke to the impact that cuts would have on it.

Mayor Harrington stated that tonight's meeting would consist of one more round of budget adds and drops.

Council members identified their preferred budget additions and items to remove.

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd to vote on the items possible to vote on.

VOTE: **Yes**: Cooper, Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Merritt, Waterhouse
No: DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon
Abstain: Oliver

The motion passed 6-2-1.

Council then voted on each of the additions and cuts proposed by Town Council members. It was noted that these would not be the final votes, but used as a tool to determine areas of consensus.

1. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to add one police cruiser to the budget. Councilor Mahon seconded.**

VOTE: **Yes**: Cooper, Mahon
No: DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Oliver, Merritt, Waterhouse
Abstain: No

The motion failed 2-7-0.

2. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to reduce Operations and Communications by $300,000. Councilor Mahon seconded.**

   Councilor Mahon called the question, and Deputy Mayor Lloyd seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

   The initial motion was repeated.

   VOTE: **Yes**: DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon, Merritt
   No: Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Waterhouse
   Abstain: Cooper, Oliver

   The motion failed 3-4-2.

3. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to reduce the Town Attorney budget by $43,640, and Councilor Cooper seconded.**

   Councilor Waterhouse moved to table the item, and Deputy Mayor Lloyd seconded. It was clarified that the tabling of the item would be until the upcoming Monday meeting, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to reduce the Board of Education by $1 million. Councilor Mahon seconded.**

   Mayor Harrington called the question, Councilor Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

   A vote was taken on the original motion.

   VOTE: **Yes**: Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Harrington, Mahon, Oliver
   No: Lloyd, Merritt, Waterhouse
   Abstain: None

   The motion passed 6-3-0.

5. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned one-time Economic Development Trust Fund usage of $1.5 million. Councilor Mahon seconded.**

   VOTE: **Yes**: Mahon

No: Cooper, Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Merritt, Oliver, Waterhouse
Abstain: DeBeatham-Brown

The motion failed 1-7-1.

6. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to reduce the Council contingency by $25,000. Councilors Mahon and Waterhouse seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to reduce Town Manager contingency by $50,000. Councilors DeBeatham-Brown and Waterhouse seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to reduce bulky waste pickup to quarterly, for a reduction of $40,000. Councilor Mahon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

9. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to reduce Human Resources by $127,353, and it was seconded by Councilors Cooper and Mahon.**

   There was a discussion as to if the increase was contractual.

   Mayor Harrington motioned to table the item, and Councilor Oliver seconded.

   VOTE: **Yes**: Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Merritt, Oliver, Waterhouse
   No: Mahon
   Abstain: None

   The motion to table passed 8-1-0.

10. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce Planning & Zoning by $1,000, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

11. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce Zoning Board of Appeals by $1,700, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

12. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce the Board of Tax Review by $283, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

13. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce IWWC by $2,100, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

    It was noted that IWWC is the wetlands commission.

14. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce the Economic Development Commission by $200, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

15. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce the Commission on Aging by $2,000, and Councilors DeBeatham-Brown and Oliver seconded.**

    VOTE: **Yes**: Oliver
    No: Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Mahon, Merritt, Waterhouse
    Abstain: None

    The motion failed 1-8-0.

16. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce Handicap by $250, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

17. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce Conservation by $750. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

18. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce Beautification by $1,600, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

19. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce Public Art Commission by $2,000, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

20. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce the Health District by $14,641, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. All Councilors voted against the motion, and the motion failed.**

21. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to restore Library part-time hours by $50,000. Councilors DeBeatham-Brown & Mahon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

22. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to remove one FTE/full-time employee from TMO/Town Manager's Office, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded.**

    VOTE: **Yes**: DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Mahon, Merritt, Oliver, Waterhouse
    No: Lloyd
    Abstain: Cooper, Harrington

    The motion passed 6-1-2.

23. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to reduce Ops & Comms PT/part-time hours by $20,000, and Councilors Cooper & DeBeatham-Brown seconded.**

    VOTE: **Yes**: DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Mahon, Merritt
    No: Cooper, Harrington, Lloyd, Oliver, Waterhouse
    Abstain: None

    The motion failed 4-5-0.

24. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to table four-days management only furlough pending further investigation, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded.**

    VOTE: **Yes**: Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Merritt, Oliver, Waterhouse
    No: Mahon
    Abstain: None

    The motion passed 8-1-0.

25. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to restore Boards and Commissions advertising for $2,500, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

    It was noted that the motion included the incorrect dollar amount.

    Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to restore Boards and Commissions advertising for $2,250, and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

26. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to restore PW/Public Works striping machine for $17,000. Councilors DeBeatham-Brown & Olivers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

27. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to table three-days furlough for all employees. Councilor Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

28. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to add consideration of $130,000 for streaming technology for 330 Great Room. Councilors Cooper & DeBeatham-Brown seconded.**

    VOTE: **Yes**: Lloyd
    No: Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Harrington, Mahon, Merritt, Oliver, Waterhouse
    Abstain: None

    The motion failed 1-8-0.

29. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to table OPEB current employees' contribution to their retirees medical. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded, and the motion passed**

unanimously.

30. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned for a further BOE reduction of $878,520.**

    There was a discussion as to whether additional information was needed.

    Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to table, and Councilor Cooper seconded.

    VOTE: **Yes**: Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Harrington, Lloyd, Merritt, Oliver, Waterhouse
    No: Mahon
    Abstain: None

    The motion to table passed 8-1-0.

There was a brief discussion about the senior accountant position, and where it was listed in the potential scenarios.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd motioned to defer voting on the budget mods until the Council reconvened. It was seconded by Councilors DeBeatham-Brown and Oliver, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill provided an update on the Metropolitan District (MDC) tax, and reported that the amount presented in the Town Manager's proposed budget is correct.

Public Comment

1. **Essie Labrot, 12 Chateau Margaux**, recommended that the Council separate needs from wants in making the budget. She reported yearly departmental increases, and requested that each department provide spending increase drivers. She asked that measurable improvements and department performance be shared. She highlighted that the population has not changed significantly, and asked for indicators to show if staffing should be increased or reduced. She suggested that the budget process start in January, and spoke to residents' frustration without full information.
2. **Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Lane**, referenced a document provided by Mr. Hill. He noted that he researched the MDC numbers on the document for surrounding towns, and that their budget matched the numbers. He contrasted the proposed Board of Education reduction to the cost of the communications department. He expressed frustration with the budget and the budget process, and disputed the accuracy of the MDC increase in the budget.
3. **Matthew McCarthy, 72 Park Avenue**, shared his history in the Town of Bloomfield as an educator and a resident with children in the district. He spoke against the proposed cuts to the Board of Education, and in favor of the budget proposed by Dr. Youngberg.
4. **Pat Davis, 4 Lisa Lane**, spoke in favor of supporting the Bloomfield School system. She stated that she did not agree with the Town Manager not residing in Town, noting the stakes of being a taxpayer. She reported that she saw growth in Council camaraderie.

5. **Gail Jorden, 1133 Blue Hills Ave**, stated that she was President of Bloomfield Education Association, representing teachers and students. She spoke about impact budget cuts would have on the school system, teachers, staff, and students.

6. **Robert Berman, 8 Hiram Lane**, stated that 90% of the numbers in the budget book were inaccurate, and that the revenue numbers in the book did not reflect the latest report from the Finance Director. He requested that the Council revisit the revenue figures. He reported that the budget book did not meet requirements stated in the Town Charter.

7. **Gail Riley, 8 Maple Avenue**, shared her frustration with the budget process, noting that almost all the items that had been removed had been put back into the budget. She contrasted the amount of money being given to different departments, expressed frustration that the library was not able to stay open additional hours, and spoke to job responsibilities of staff within Town Hall. She expressed concern that she may no longer be able to afford to live in Bloomfield, and encouraged Council to cut back in the budget.

8. **Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Road**, spoke to the need for full and transparent information for responsible decision making. She stated that she supports essential services, a realistic budget for the Board of Education, more hours for the library, and promoting economic development. She reported that at the March Finance subcommittee meeting she requested that the over $2 million worth of items currently listed as "undefined" and vendors listed as "one-time pay" be accurately categorized, but that this has not occurred. She reported this lack of clarity undermined the confidence in the budget process. She requested that the Town Council provide and ensure that all financial information is detailed, accurate, and verified.

9. **Wendy Williams, 48 Gabb Road**, spoke of earlier conversations to support seniors and students, and that cuts to the budget would not support them. She shared the experience of her children in Bloomfield Public Schools, and expressed her support for Dr. Youngberg and the Board of Education. She suggested the need for creative solutioning, and not wanting the budget to be on the backs of taxpayers or at the sacrifice of children.

10. **Dr. Winston Campbell, 491 Simsbury Road**, via Zoom, reported that he is a retired senior in support of the Board of Education. He spoke to the importance of education to people looking to move into Town. He stated that he did not see the need this year to give half a million dollars to the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course.

11. **James Biffer, 17 Terry Plains Road**, via Zoom, suggested that the Council focus on the larger picture instead of small line items. He noted that the CFO reported that it takes $1 million to change the budget 1%. He stated that that Town Hall is too expensive, and suggested the Council recommend a specific number to cut, and then let the departments and Town Manager decide where the cuts come from.

12. **Tiaca Davis, 5 Cedar Lane**, via Zoom, reported that she is a Bloomfield Public Schools teacher who attended the school system, and whose children also attend. She expressed disagreement with the Board of Education cuts, and spoke to the challenges that cuts would create in the classroom and on children. She expressed support for Dr. Youngberg's vision and proposed budget.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt and seconded by Councilor Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

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

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DhqcKCVR3M