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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Wednesday, May 6, 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 Goodwin, DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon, Merritt, Oliver, *and via Zoom:* Councilor Cooper

Councilors absent were: Waterhouse

Also present were: ***In-Person***—Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; 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; David Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Vinci Midodzi, Assessor; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools; Camillia Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services; Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services; *and via Zoom*—Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; Daavid Melesko, Director Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Andrea DiStephen, Town Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Old Business

2026-51: Consider and Take Action regarding Appointment to the Town Plan & Zoning Commission (TPZ)- Alternate Vacancy

Mayor Harrington read the background of the memorandum for filling of Town Plan & Zoning Commission (TPZ) Alternate Vacancy available 3/9/26.

Council members identified their preferred candidate for appointment.

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously that the Town Council appoint Desarae Cotton as an Alternate on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a term expiring 11/8/27.

2026-52: Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Adoption of the Town of Bloomfield FY 2027 Budget and set the mill rate for Fiscal Year 2027

It was moved by Councilor Goodwin, seconded by Councilor Oliver, and voted for the Democratic Council to caucus the session starting at 7:23pm.

VOTE: Yes: Goodwin, Oliver, Harrington, Cooper, Merritt, DeBeatham-Brown

No: Mahon

Abstain: Lloyd

Motion passed 6-1-1

Democratic Council caucus ended at 7:41pm. Meeting resumed at 7:41pm.

Councilors had discussions to review the adoption of the Town of Bloomfield FY 2027 Budget then voted to take on each of the additions and cuts proposed by Town Council members.

1. Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to remove the social services reduction by $42,374. Mayor Harrington seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 7-1-0.

2. Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to remove the reduction of Senior Services by $40,000. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded and voted. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to remove the library reduction of $4,000. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 7-1-0

4. Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to remove 1 FTE from Ops & Comms in the dollar amount indicated of $156,882. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 7-1-0

5. Further reduction in Ops & Comms for the amount of $141,766. Councilor Cooper seconded A the motion.

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

Motion tied 4-4-0

The item was revisited for discussion. Deputy Mayor Lloyd repeated the motion-based recommendation from Councilor Mahan, to further reduce, in addition to the $156,822, an additional $141,766 from Ops & Comms.

VOTE: **Yes:** DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon
No: Cooper, Oliver, Merritt, Goodwin, Lloyd, Harrington
Abstain: None
Motion failed: 2-6-0

6. Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved that the Management and Non-Union (MGM & NONU) GWI add 10 months for a total of $170,000. Councilor Mahon seconded the motion.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown requested a friendly amendment to add 12 months. Deputy Mayor Lloyd accepted friendly amendment stating a motion to add 6 months to the 2-month delay. Deputy Mayor Lloyd restated the motion as management and non-union GWI added 4 months for a total of $68,000. Councilor Cooper seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 6-2-0

7. Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to motion the Town Clerk eliminate 1 FTE at 132,943. Councilor Cooper seconded the motion.

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

Motion failed 3-5-0

8. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to motion the Tax Collector eliminate 1 FTE in the amount of $110,636. Councilor Mahon seconded the motion.**

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

Motion failed 2-6-0

9. **Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to motion the IT elimination of Deputy Director at $160,900. Councilor Goodwin seconded the motion.**

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

Motion failed 1-7-0

There was brief discussion about the retirement incentive package presented by Councilor Goodwin.

Councilor Mahon moved to make a motion to change the retirement incentive plan, adjusted to Goodwin's compensation recommendation package discussed. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded the motion.

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

Motion failed 2-5-1

The councilors had further discussion regarding the fund balance. Councilor Mahon made a motion to add $500,000 to the Board of Education's (BOE) budget. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded the motion. After discussion, Councilor Oliver called the question. Deputy Mayor Lloyd seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-2-0

Mayor Harrington called for a roll call vote

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

Motion failed 1-7-0

Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved to motion this scenario as the adopted budget at 3.07% budget change, with a mill rate of 34.40. Councilor Cooper seconded the motion. Councilors had discussion on the motion. Councilor Cooper called the question. Councilor Mahon seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-2-0

Mayor Harrington called for a roll call vote. The vote began with Councilor Cooper- Yes and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown asking for a friendly amendment. Deputy Mayor Lloyd accepted the friendly amendment. Councilor Goodwin seconded.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd reread the motion to move the adopted budget to 3.07% with a mill rate of 34.40 to include the addendum there is a hiring freeze for FY2027. Councilor Cooper seconded the motion.

There was further discussion amongst the councilors and Town Manager. Deputy Mayor Lloyd reissued the motion to be moved that the council adopt the budget at 3.07%, with a mill rate of 34.40, with the caveat that there is a hiring freeze, except to the extent of sheer necessity, hires will only be made with the approval of Council. Councilor Cooper seconded the friendly amendment to the motion.

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

Motion passed 6-2-0

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m.