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BLOOMFIELD, CT

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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Monday June 8, 2026 at 7:00 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: ***In-Person:*** Mayor Harrington; Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Councilor(s) DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon, Merritt, Waterhouse, Goodwin, Cooper; ***via Zoom:*** Oliver

Councilors absent: None

Also present were: ***In-Person***— Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; ***via Zoom:*** Sharron Tai-Williams, Deputy Town Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Announcements and Presentations

A. Presentation

Mayor Harrington presented a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Bloomfield Center Fire Department and honoring its century of volunteer service to the community. The proclamation highlighted the department's history, growth, and contributions to public safety since its establishment, while expressing gratitude to the past and present volunteer firefighters, officers, commissioners, and supporters whose dedication has protected Bloomfield residents for 100 years. Mayor Harrington proclaimed 2026 as a year of celebration for the department's 100th anniversary.

- Proclamation- 100th Anniversary of the Bloomfield Center Fire Department

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.

1. **Bob Dickinson, 400 Seabury Drive,** expressed concern about speeding on local streets and roads and suggested that speed camera enforcement could provide a cost-effective alternative to increased police enforcement. Mr. Dickinson noted that speed cameras have been effective in

other Connecticut communities, issue warnings for first offenses, and generate revenue that can only be used for safety improvements. Mr. Dickinson emphasized that the goal is to encourage safer driving habits and reduce speeding rather than generate revenue.

2. Sherry Levine, 4 Nolan Dr., thanked Councilors DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Mahon, & Waterhouse for voting against the proposed budget and stated that residents would remember their support. Ms. Levine also expressed concern about the financial challenges facing senior citizens and urged the Town Council to explore available state programs, legislation, and local measures that could help seniors remain in their homes and afford rising costs.

3. Alvin Taylor, 15 Regency Drive, expressed concern about the Town's current direction and stated that Bloomfield is facing significant organizational and financial challenges. Mr. Taylor recommended that the Town Council consider negotiating an end to the Town Manager's contract and suggested bringing back former Town Manager Louis Chapman to help improve municipal operations, financial management, and the overall appearance of the community.

4. Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Road, commented on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget referendum, expressing disappointment with voter turnout and suggesting that the Town consider using a budget mailer similar to neighboring communities to better inform residents about budget proposals, tax impacts, and referendum dates. Mrs. Barringer also inquired about the status of the Charter Revision Commission and urged the Council to establish safeguards for fourth-quarter budget transfers to ensure expenditure remains consistent with the adopted Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

5. Lucy Hurston, 5 Christine Circle, expressed concern that the Town Council and administration have taken an adversarial approach toward residents and stated that this has contributed to a sense of disconnect and lack of trust within the community. Ms. Hurston raised several concerns regarding fiscal decisions, communications related to the budget referendum, the scheduling of the election, and adherence to the Town Charter, and questioned whether certain actions may have limited public awareness or participation. Ms. Hurston urged the Council to ensure greater transparency, stronger adherence to the Charter, and a more inclusive approach that better reflects and serves the interests of Bloomfield residents.

6. Robert Simmons, 23 Capewell Drive, urged Council members to speak up when inaccurate statements are made in public discourse, emphasizing the importance of correcting misinformation and maintaining accountability in public discussions. Mr. Simmons addressed several concerns raised about Town administration decisions, including retirement incentives and vehicle use, stating that such practices are not unusual and have occurred historically within municipal operations. Mr. Simmons also expressed support for individuals who challenged misinformation and concluded by calling for respectful and accurate dialogue regarding Town officials and community members.

7. Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Lane, expressed concern regarding the accuracy of the reported 3.07% tax increase, stating that residents would experience a higher overall increase when combined with mill rates and other local assessments. Mr. Kirton also raised concerns about the Town Manager's qualifications and compliance with the Town Charter, specifically referencing residency requirements, and questioned whether appropriate written legal opinions have been provided regarding that issue. Mr. Kirton urged the Council to ensure transparency, adherence to the Charter, and accountability in both administrative and legal guidance provided to the Town.

8. (online) Shelby Young, noted that the recent referendum resulted in residents upholding the budget and emphasized the importance of improving town messaging, so the community has a clearer understanding of municipal processes. Ms. Young expressed concern that misinformation can circulate when residents are not fully informed and encouraged a greater focus on town business and respectful dialogue rather than internal disputes. Ms. Young also referenced historical budget and administrative practices and urged caution in how Town officials and staff are discussed publicly, emphasizing the importance of fairness and accuracy.

Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development

Mayor Harrington reported that the Governance, Policy, and Economic Development Subcommittee had tabled discussion on the Town's boards and commissions appointment process and related standard operating procedures, pending completion of required documentation, with discussions ongoing. Mayor Harrington further stated that the Subcommittee unanimously recommended reinstating the Council Subcommittee on Committees (Appointments Subcommittee) and forwarded that recommendation to the full Council for consideration. Mayor Harrington outlined the subcommittee's intended responsibilities, including oversight of board and commission appointments and reappointments, vacancy tracking, and coordination with political town committees to support community representation and engagement.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding

Deputy Mayor Lloyd announced that, following the conclusion of the budget process, regularly scheduled Finance Subcommittee meetings will resume on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. noting that no meetings have been held recently due to the budget cycle but indicated that the subcommittee will reconvene and invited members to reach out in advance with any questions.

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment

Councilor Cooper reported that a meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m., during which routine reports were received from the Center Fire District, Blue Hills Fire District, West Hartford–Bloomfield Health District, CEEC, Bloomfield Volunteer Fire and Ambulance, and Bloomfield Police Department, with nothing outstanding to report and a noted decrease in police

calls. Councilor Cooper also referenced recent emergency incidents and noted that upcoming public health reporting will include updates on certain disease concerns, while emphasizing that Bloomfield remains well-served by its health district. Councilor Cooper further announced that the next meeting would be held Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom and encouraged residents to submit public health and safety concerns for inclusion or follow-up.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development, & Community Services

Councilor Oliver reported that the Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services cancelled its subcommittee meeting for June as preparation of report out for the month of July.

Council Business

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes

- May 26, 2026
- May 14, 2026
- May 9, 2026
- May 8, 2026

B. Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to approve the Action Regarding Tax Refunds

Old Business

2026-47: Consider and Take Action Regarding Approval of Applications for the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to open this item for discussion.

There was no discussion.

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse to call the question on the motion.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Cooper and voted unanimously to approval the Application for the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program

New Business

2026-62: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Acceptance of Anthonys Way Roadway

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to open discussion.

During Council discussion, Councilor Oliver sought clarification regarding the name of Anthony's Way and confirmed that it was not named after Mayor Harrington. Director of Building and Land Use John Coleman explained that the item involved the routine acceptance of a subdivision roadway that had been approved by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission in 2018, constructed to Town standards, reviewed by the Engineering Division, and prepared for transfer to the Town through an executed roadway deed.

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to read and approve the resolution. *(attached)*

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, *the roadway known as Anthonys Way is part of a 12-lot residential subdivision originally approved by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission on February 22, 2018, and revised in September 2020; and*

WHEREAS, *the subdivision includes a public road approximately 1,065 feet in length, designed and approved to be a Town road; and*

WHEREAS, *the Town Engineer inspected all public improvements including the road construction and as-built plan with respect to the approved plans and Town standards in June, 2021 and developed a punch list of items for the developer to address; and*

WHEREAS, *the Engineering Division has confirmed that all punch list items have been satisfactorily completed and has confirmed that the road is ready to be accepted as a Town road; and*

WHEREAS, *the developer, Anthony Maulucci, has provided an executed roadway deed, which has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and is ready for filing upon acceptance; and*

WHEREAS, *the Land Use Department therefore recommends acceptance of Anthonys Way as a Town road;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Town Council formally accepts Anthonys Way as a public road of the Town of Bloomfield.*

2026-63: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Acceptance of Anthony's Way Open Space

Director Jon Coleman presented a resolution for the acceptance of the Anthony Way Open Space Parcel, which was designated as open space as part of the approved subdivision and is located adjacent to La Salette Park. He explained that the property would be conveyed to the Town in lieu of foreclosure on municipal tax liens after it was determined that taxes had been improperly assessed on the parcel despite its intended open space designation. Director Coleman noted that the Town Plan and Zoning Commission recommended acceptance of the parcel, highlighting its value in expanding access to La Salette Park from nearby residential neighborhoods.

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to read and approve the resolution. (*attached*)

RESOLUTION

***WHEREAS**, Anthonys Way is a twelve (12) lot residential subdivision approved by the Town of Bloomfield Plan and Zoning Commission on February 22, 2018, as thereafter revised in September 2020; and*

***WHEREAS,** the approved subdivision plans provide for the designation and conveyance to the Town of Bloomfield of an approximately 9.832-acre open space parcel associated with said subdivision; and*

***WHEREAS**, the developer, Anthony Maulucci, has delivered executed deeds for the conveyance of said open space parcel to the Town of Bloomfield, which deeds have been reviewed and approved as to form by the Town Attorney and are ready for filing and recording upon acceptance by the Town Council; and*

***WHEREAS,** acceptance of said open space parcel is in the public interest and is consistent with the approved subdivision plans, and because the parcel is directly adjacent to Town-owned LaSalette Park, its acquisition represents a significant opportunity to expand and strengthen an existing public open space asset, preserve a larger contiguous area of protected land, safeguard natural resources, enhance passive recreational opportunities for residents, and advance the Town's long-term goals of conservation, stewardship, and preservation of community character; and*

***WHEREAS,** said open space parcel is being conveyed in lieu of foreclosure of municipal tax liens in favor of the Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut and Bloomfield Center Fire District together with all municipal real property taxes and assessments due and owning with respect to the October 1, 2023 Grand List (payable July 1, 2024)together with any interest, penalties, fees and charges due thereon; and*

***WHEREAS,** Upon recording of the deed, Town of Bloomfield Tax Collector shall enter or cause to be entered in her books against the unpaid tax or assessment account of such real estate, the*

following notation, "Acquired by deed in lieu of Foreclosure", which notation shall be completed by a statement of the day, month and year of the acquisition of such real estate. Immediately after such entry in her books against such unpaid account, the Tax Collector shall file for record, in the Bloomfield Town Clerk's, a release of such lien or liens on such real estate then on record in such office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield hereby accepts, on behalf of the Town of Bloomfield, the conveyance of the approximately 9.832-acre open space parcel as shown on the approved plans for the Anthonys Way subdivision; and be it further RESOLVED, that the appropriate Town officials are hereby authorized to take such actions, and to execute and file or record such documents, as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and complete the acceptance of said conveyance.*

2026-64: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Reinstitution of the Town Council Subcommittee- Committee on Communities

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to open the floor for discussion.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd expressed support for reinstating the Committee on Committees as a standing Town Council subcommittee, noting her positive experience with the appointments process and commending the development of a new standard operating procedure that incorporated public input. She stated that the committee would help facilitate board and commission appointments and support residents interested in serving the Town.

Mayor Harrington provided background on the proposed amendment, explaining that the Committee on Committees would serve an advisory role by reviewing vacancies, evaluating applicants, soliciting recommendations, and forwarding appointment recommendations to the full Town Council, while final appointment authority would remain with the Council.

It was moved by Councilor Cooper, seconded by Councilor Lloyd, and voted unanimously to move to approve the reinstitution of Committee on Committees and direct the mayor to appoint its membership.

2026-65: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Revisions to the Town Council Rules of Procedure to Establish the Committee on Committees as a Standing Council Subcommittee

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to open the floor for discussion.

The Council discussed and approved revisions to the Town Council Rules of Procedure establishing the Committee on Committees as a standing Town Council subcommittee. Mayor Harrington announced that Councilor Goodwin would serve as Chair, with Councilors DeBeatham-Brown and Waterhouse serving as committee members, and it was noted that the

committee planned to hold a special meeting on Wednesday June 17 at 6pm to continue reviewing the related standard operating procedures.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to amend its Rules of Procedure to establish the Committee on Committees as a standing Town Council subcommittee.

Report from Town Manager

Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp Jr., Town Manager, thanked residents for participating in the recent budget referendum and explained that the Saturday voting date was selected due to high school scheduling conflicts and statutory deadlines related to the mailing of tax bills. Town Manager stated that Town staff were prepared to implement the results of the referendum regardless of the outcome and expressed appreciation for residents who engage in civic discourse respectfully. The Town Manager also addressed concerns regarding public statements about Town operations and concluded by thanking residents for their participation and support of the community.

Council Comments

T. Cooper

Councilor Cooper thanked residents for participating in the budget referendum and acknowledged that the process was challenging and at times contentious, while noting that residents had multiple opportunities to engage through prior budget sessions. Councilor Cooper emphasized that Council members are also residents impacted by the budget and expressed appreciation for colleagues' efforts in developing it, while reaffirming a commitment to representing the needs and interests of the community. Councilor Cooper concluded by apologizing for earlier remarks made during the meeting, stating a commitment to respectful discourse, and reaffirmed availability to respond to constituent questions.

S. DeBeatham-Brown

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown thanked residents for participating in the referendum and emphasized the importance of civic engagement and voter participation in local government decisions. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed concern about the financial impact of the budget on residents, including affordability challenges and potential displacement, and stated a commitment to advocating for residents' needs and amplifying community voices. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown also urged continued public engagement, transparency, and respectful accountability between residents and elected officials, emphasizing the importance of open communication and access to accurate information.

S. Mahon

Councilor Mahon congratulated Bloomfield High School's track team on their athletic achievements and recognized the 100-year anniversary of the Bloomfield Center Fire

Department, highlighting the significance of its long-standing volunteer service. Councilor Mahon thanked residents for participating in the budget referendum and emphasized the importance of civic engagement, noting that participation through voting and public involvement strengthens local decision-making. Although expressing disappointment with the budget outcome, Councilor Mahon urged residents to remain engaged, support one another, and be mindful of neighbors facing financial hardship, while encouraging continued community care and accountability.

M. Oliver

Councilor Oliver congratulated the Bloomfield Fire Department and the Bloomfield High School track team on their accomplishments and addressed concerns regarding the timing of the Saturday referendum vote, clarifying that there was no intent to exclude individuals observing the Sabbath or members of the Jewish community from participating. Councilor Oliver emphasized that the scheduling decision was not made to disadvantage any group and offered an apology for any unintended impact.

J. Merritt

Councilor Merritt discussed the recent and prior budget years, noting that both had been difficult for residents due to significant tax increases associated with the referendum and property revaluation process. Councilor Merritt stated that some of the resulting financial impacts were not directly attributable to Council actions and indicated a need to explore corrective measures in coordination with staff to address these challenges moving forward. Councilor Merritt emphasized a desire to avoid repeating similar budget outcomes in the future and expressed support for pursuing strategies to mitigate the impact on residents and town operations.

E. Waterhouse

Councilor Waterhouse thanked residents for participating in the Saturday referendum and acknowledged that the voting schedule may have been inconvenient for some, while noting that turnout was still strong. Councilor Waterhouse also reminded the public of the upcoming Bloomfield High School graduation ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at 5:00 p.m., encouraging community attendance and support for graduating students.

D. Goodwin

Councilor Goodwin thanked staff and residents for their participation in the recent Bloomfield Pride flag raising event and noted the strong community turnout and emphasized the importance of recognizing "voices that do not speak" in public forums or civic processes, including residents who may not participate in voting or public discourse, and discussed broader concerns about civility, public discourse, and the treatment of residents and officials in political dialogue.

Councilor Goodwin urged mutual respect in civic engagement, stating that disagreement should not result in personal attacks or the loss of shared humanity, and called for the Town to reject

intimidation, bullying, and disrespect in public discourse. Councilor Goodwin concluded by encouraging the community to uphold respectful engagement and reaffirming a commitment to continue advocating for civility in public service.

C. Lloyd

Deputy Mayor Lloyd responded in support of Councilor Goodwin's remarks regarding civility and emphasized concerns about an underlying pattern of threatening or frightening communications directed toward leaders and residents, calling for the community to uphold the principle that "hate does not live here." Deputy Mayor Lloyd also provided updates on upcoming community events, including the Blue Hills and Center Fire Department centennial celebrations, a local carnival, and Juneteenth observances, and encouraged public participation in these activities.

Additionally, Deputy Mayor Lloyd referenced recent public discussions regarding legal services and associated costs, noting the importance of continued transparency and further review of attorney fees in upcoming Finance Committee discussions and concluded by thanking residents for participating in the referendum regardless of their vote and encouraged continued civic engagement.

A. Harrington

Mayor Harrington reiterated an apology regarding concerns raised by members of the Jewish community about the scheduling of the Saturday referendum vote, stating that while the timing was constrained, the Town would make greater efforts in the future to consider scheduling impacts and community observances. Mayor Harrington also acknowledged Town leadership, including the Deputy Mayor and Town Manager, for conducting public budget meetings and noted that public input influenced several areas of the budget process.

Mayor Harrington further stated that the Town would continue efforts to address concerns related to senior services and other community needs, including exploring potential grant opportunities and additional supports to mitigate tax impacts and thanked the Director of Finance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss pending claims and litigation.

It was moved by Councilor Goodwin seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to exit executive session at 10:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the roadway known as Anthonys Way is part of a 12-lot residential subdivision originally approved by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission on February 22, 2018, and revised in September 2020; and

WHEREAS, the subdivision includes a public road approximately 1,065 feet in length, designed and approved to be a Town road; and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer inspected all public improvements including the road construction and as-built plan with respect to the approved plans and Town standards in June, 2021 and developed a punch list of items for the developer to address; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Division has confirmed that all punch list items have been satisfactorily completed and has confirmed that the road is ready to be accepted as a Town road; and

WHEREAS, the developer, Anthony Maulucci, has provided an executed roadway deed, which has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and is ready for filing upon acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Department therefore recommends acceptance of Anthonys Way as a Town road;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council formally accepts Anthonys Way as a public road of the Town of Bloomfield.

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, the approved subdivision plans provide for the designation and conveyance to the Town of Bloomfield of an approximately 9.832-acre open space parcel associated with said subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the developer, Anthony Maulucci, has delivered executed deeds for the conveyance of said open space parcel to the Town of Bloomfield, which deeds have been reviewed and approved as to form by the Town Attorney and are ready for filing and recording upon acceptance by the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of said open space parcel is in the public interest and is consistent with the approved subdivision plans, and because the parcel is directly adjacent to Town-owned LaSalette Park, its acquisition represents a significant opportunity to expand and strengthen an existing public open space asset, preserve a larger contiguous area of protected land, safeguard natural resources, enhance passive recreational opportunities for residents, and advance the Town's long-term goals of conservation, stewardship, and preservation of community character; and

WHEREAS, said open space parcel is being conveyed in lieu of foreclosure of municipal tax liens in favor of the Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut and Bloomfield Center Fire District together with all municipal real property taxes and assessments due and owning with respect to the October 1, 2023 Grand List (payable July 1, 2024)together with any interest, penalties, fees and charges due thereon; and

WHEREAS, Upon recording of the deed, Town of Bloomfield Tax Collector shall enter or cause to be entered in her books against the unpaid tax or assessment account of such real estate, the following notation, "Acquired by deed in lieu of Foreclosure", which notation shall be completed by a statement of the day, month and year of the acquisition of such real estate. Immediately after such entry in her books against such unpaid account, the Tax Collector shall file for record, in the Bloomfield Town Clerk's, a release of such lien or liens on such real estate then on record in such office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield hereby accepts, on behalf of the Town of Bloomfield, the conveyance of the approximately 9.832-acre open space parcel as shown on the approved plans for the Anthonys Way subdivision; and be it further RESOLVED, that the appropriate Town officials are hereby authorized to take such actions, and to execute and file or record such documents, as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and complete the acceptance of said conveyance.