Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2026
2:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Monday September 14, 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, Councilor(s) Waterhouse, Merritt, DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, ***via Zoom:*** Councilor(s) Deputy Mayor Lloyd, & Mahon

Councilors absent: Oliver & Cooper

Also present were: ***In-Person***—Alvin D. Schwpp, Jr., Town Manager; Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Jon Colman, Director Building and Land Use; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Elizabeth Lane, Director of Bloomfield Libraries; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant ***via Zoom:*** Town Attorney Andrew Crumbie, Crumbie Law; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance (7:43pm); Glen Garrity, Director of Public Works and Facilities; Donna Stewart, Deputy Director of Finance

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Hearing

It was moved by Mayor Harrington to open for Public Hearing at 7:01P.M. Mayor Harrington stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to solicit public input regarding proposed revisions to the Town's Code of Ordinances, including Chapter 6, Sections 6-6, 6-7, and 6-8, and Chapter 15, Section 15-6, concerning planning and zoning application fees. He noted that copies of the proposed revisions were available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office. Mayor Harrington invited individuals to speak.

There were no residents for public comment (in-person or online)

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to close Public Hearing at 7:02 P.M.

Mayor Harrington addressed questions regarding the newly established Charter Revision Commission. He stated that the Council established the current Commission in February 2026, with the same members as the previous Commission, to build upon prior work. The Council established a target of late January 2027 for submission of a draft report; however, the deadline may be extended as permitted by State statute. Mayor Harrington clarified that the January 2027

submission would be a draft and that the Charter Revision process is expected to continue through 2027, with the goal of placing proposed revisions on the November 2027 ballot.

Announcements and Presentations

Mayor Harrington presented awards to participants in the Bloomfield Wild for Wildlife Photo Contest, recognizing photographs highlighting the Town's wildlife and natural environment. Mayor Harrington thanked all participants for their contributions to the contest and for highlighting Bloomfield's wildlife and natural environment.

Gabrielle Ogonji – Certificate of Wildlife Photography Distinction in the Youth Shots category

Robert Morisse –Certificate of Wildlife Photography Distinction in the Young and Wild category.

Douglas Murray – Certificate of Wildlife Photography Distinction in the Golden Hour Hunters category.

Dwight Hatch –Certificate of Wildlife Photography Distinction in the Pollinator Power category.

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 to for no longer than three (3) minutes, unless permitted by the mayor of councilor presiding.

1. Robert Berman, 8 Hiram Lane, (see attached)

2. Elizabeth Lane, Director BPL, 33 Burnwood Drive, highlighted that this is Library Card Sign-Up and Hispanic Heritage Month. She reported that 7,552 Bloomfield residents had active library cards as of September 1, 2026, providing access to library programs, digital resources, museum passes, career resources, and other services. Ms. Lane also highlighted Hispanic Heritage Month programming, including cultural programs, bilingual literacy activities, Spanish-language collections, and access to Mango Languages for conversational Spanish instruction.

3. Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Rd., highlighted Bloomfield Public Library's Teen Advisory Group and upcoming Interval House programs addressing teen dating violence, consent and boundaries, digital wellness, and friendships. She also requested that the Finance Department review and appropriately categorize approximately 7% of the current fiscal year budget listed as "undefined" in the Town's Open Finance system. Mrs. Barringer further requested clarification regarding why prior Charter Revision proposals did not appear on the ballot and emphasized the importance of addressing the issue during the current revision process.

Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development

Mayor Harrington reported that the subcommittee had not met since the previous Council meeting but provided updates on ongoing matters. Regarding the CIF proposal, he stated that the Town expects to learn on Friday whether the proposal will be placed on the agenda for consideration, with a decision anticipated the following week. He noted that State legislators and representatives have been contacted in support of the proposal.

Mayor Harrington also provided an update on the Popeyes development, reporting that a previously unresolved Eversource issue had been resolved and that an outstanding CNG issue may have an alternative path forward. He noted that work at the site has continued and requested an update from Director Colman regarding the project.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding

Deputy Mayor Lloyd reported on August 17, 2026, Finance Committee meeting, providing updates on the FY2025 and FY2026 audits, financial reconciliations, and Finance Department staffing. She reported that the FY2025 audit was submitted to CLA in July, with completion anticipated by mid-October 2026, and that the FY2026 audit is underway with a target submission of mid-March 2027. She also noted that most accounts were reconciled through July 2026, with more than 30 bank and investment accounts balanced.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd also provided updates on the Assistant Town Accountant position and the Board of Education's transition to Munis, noting that accounts payable is operational while payroll implementation and training continue, with full transition targeted for January 2027.

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment

Mayor Harrington, reporting in the absence of Councilor Todd Cooper, expressed condolences to the family of a tow truck operator who died in a traffic accident on Tunxis Avenue. He also expressed concern regarding a subsequent incident involving a Bloomfield resident who was struck by a vehicle and reminded motorists to exercise caution, remain attentive, and limit phone use while driving.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services

Mayor Harrington reported that Councilor Michael Oliver was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency and stated that his report would be provided at the next Council meeting.

E. Committee on Committees

Councilor Goodwin reported that the Committee completed interviews for appointments to the Bloomfield Housing Authority, Board of Assessment Appeals, Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee, Environmental Development Commission, Emergency Medical

Services, Fair Rent Commission, Golf Advisory Committee, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Lower Farmington River, Public Art Commission, Recreation Committee, Youth Adult Council, and Youth Diversion Team. He stated that recommendations would be submitted to the Council at its next meeting in accordance with the applicable ordinances and Charter provisions.

Councilor Goodwin also clarified that the Ethics Commission is nominated and appointed by the Council under the applicable ordinance and Charter provisions; therefore, the Committee on Committees would not make appointments to that commission.

Council Business

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes

- August 10, 2026
- August 24, 2026

B. Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

C. Consider and Take Action Regarding the Appointment of the Committee on Committees' Recommended Candidate for the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vacancy

It was moved by Councilor Waterhouse, seconded by Goodwin to open the floor for discussion.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown raised concern regarding the accuracy of the August 24, 2026 meeting minutes. She stated that an agenda item and vote following executive session were not reflected in the minutes and that she had submitted the requested revisions by email twice without confirmation. She requested that the August 24 minutes be removed from the consent agenda so the corrections could be made before approval.

There was discussion with the councilors.

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to remove August 24, 2026, meeting minutes from approval.

It was moved by Councilor Waterhouse, seconded by Councilor Goodwin and voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to table the minutes of August 24, 2026, for the next Town Council Meeting to give the council an opportunity to review the edited minutes.

Report from Town Manager

Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager provided updates on the Town's transition plans, staffing, finance, capital improvement planning, and economic development. He reported that

transition plans were underway for 330 Park Avenue, Human Resources, and the Finance Department, with Donna Stewart appointed as Director of Finance. Recruitment continued for several positions, including HR Director, Assistant Town Accountant, Assistant Director of Social and Youth Services, Assistant Town Engineer, and full-time IT. The Board of Education's transition to Munis payroll is targeted for April 1, 2027.

Mrs. Stewart reported that prior accounting deficiencies had been addressed, bank reconciliations were current through August, the FY2025 audit was nearing completion, and preparation for the FY2026 audit was underway.

Mr. Glen Garrity, Director of Public Works and Facilities, reported concerns regarding deferred maintenance, aging vehicles and capital assets, and the need for longer-term capital planning. A future presentation on deferred maintenance and capital needs will be provided to the Council, followed by a Public Works open house.

Mr. Jon Colman, Director of Building and Land Use, provided updates on economic development, including the Town Center plan, Plan of Conservation and Development, active development projects, and the Popeyes project. He reported 2,247 building permits issued during FY2026, approximately $1.747 million in permit value, and $126.408 million in construction value added to the Grand List.

The Town Manager also announced the upcoming 2026 Bloomfield Food Truck Festival on Saturday, September 19 and introduced new Library staff members Rosie Luther and Vanessa Kelman. He emphasized employee recruitment, development, recognition, and internal advancement.

Council Comments

Mayor Harrington

Mayor Harrington reported on recent Board of Education activities and educational outcomes, noting a current 94% graduation rate and 78% of graduates attending college. He recognized Lisa Limenzo for her recent appointment to a leadership position within the Board of Education and commended her professional development. Mayor Harrington also noted the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, and his participation in the annual commemoration in Westport. He expressed interest in establishing a similar commemoration in Bloomfield.

Mayor Harrington reported that Superintendent Youngberg plans to provide monthly updates to the Town Council during the second Council meeting of each month and noted progress by the Board of Education Finance Department in addressing prior concerns and transitioning to the Munis system. Mayor Harrington announced the Connecticut Minority Construction Council's annual "Connections That Build Opportunities" event, scheduled for October 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Alvin and Beatrice Wood Human Services Building, 330 Park Avenue, and encouraged local contractors to participate.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Harrington recognized the evening's award recipients and noted plans to recognize Bloomfield High School track athletes, including the national high jump champion and both boys' and girls' state championship teams also highlighting the Town's 94% graduation rate and 78% college enrollment rate. Mayor Harrington noted ongoing economic development and housing initiatives, including efforts to determine the use of housing development funds, and stated that the Town is awaiting a decision from CIF regarding funding consideration.

S. DeBeatham-Brown

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown raised concerns regarding parking at Wedgwood Apartments. Director Colman stated that increased parking demand under older development regulations has created challenges and that the Town will explore options with the Police Department and Connecticut Transit, including regulated on-street parking and potential transit adjustments.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown emphasized the importance of timely communication with residents regarding their concerns. She also noted that she had initiated discussions regarding the Town Manager's budget, encouraged clear Council direction, and congratulated Councilor Mahon on receiving the Legacy Leader Award.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown asked whether Councilors may ask questions of Town staff or the Town Manager during their reports so that questions and responses are reflected in the record without reducing the Councilor's allotted comment time. Town Manager Schwapp clarified that he routinely invites questions at the conclusion of his reports to allow for discussion with Council and staff. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown acknowledged the clarification and stated that she would use this opportunity to ensure questions are addressed and included in the record.

J. Merritt

Councilor Merritt questioned the Council's two-minute speaking limit and suggested that the Rules of Procedure be reconsidered. He congratulated Donna Stewart on her qualifications and experience and expressed confidence in her leadership in the Finance Department.

D. Goodwin

Councilor Goodwin recognized residents who applied to serve on Town committees and commissions, commending their willingness to contribute their time, experience, and talents. He encouraged Republican and unaffiliated residents to apply for available positions to help ensure that committees and commissions remain balanced in accordance with the Charter and ordinances.

S. Mahon

Councilor Mahon stated that Councilors should be permitted to ask clarifying questions during staff or Town Manager reports without those questions reducing their allotted Council comment

time. He thanked Councilor DeBeatham-Brown for presenting him with the Legacy Leader Award and raised concerns regarding the Blue-Ribbon Committee, including the lack of publicly identified members and information regarding the application and selection process. Councilor Mahon encouraged the Town Manager to consider greater public involvement in the process, particularly given the committee's role in matters affecting the Town's budget, taxes, and use of public funds.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 P.M.

September 14, 2026

My name is Robert Berman. I reside at 8 Hiram Lane. On July 22, 2026, I requested a copy of the addendum to the Town Attorney's contract from the Town Clerk's office. On August 17, 2026 I requested copies of the invoices submitted by the Town Attorney's law office since November 1, 2023. As of today, I have not received either of these requests. I have been informed by the Town Clerk's office that the request for the addendum to the Town Attorney's office was referred to the Town Manager's office, and that the request for the invoices was referred to the Finance Department. Discussions with former employees of the Finance Department indicated that all invoices are routinely scanned into the computer, and that an electronic file of requested invoices can be produced in a timeframe that varies from as little as 10 seconds to as much as 45 seconds.

I am, therefore, respectively requesting that this Town Council direct the Town Manager, who has the copy of the addendum in his office, to produce it for me within 48 hours. In addition, I am respectively asking this Town Council to direct the Town Manager to direct the Finance Department to provide the requested invoices with the next 48 hours also.

If this Town Council and this Administration is as interested in transparency as claimed, than this should be a no-brainer. If, however, both this Town Council and Administration wish to continue not to respond to the residents of Bloomfield, then these two simple requests will continue to be ignored. I ask that this statement be entered into the official minutes of this meeting.

Thank you

Robert Berman

8 Hiram Lane