Town Council Meeting Agenda

Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor
Cindi A. Lloyd, Deputy Mayor
Darrell Goodwin
Elizabeth A. Waterhouse
Joseph P. Merritt
Michael J. Oliver
Shamar A. Mahon
Suzette DeBeatham-Brown
Todd E. Cooper

Monday, October 26, 2026, 7:00 pm
Town Hall – Council Chambers • 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting of the Town of Bloomfield will be held in a hybrid format. This means that you can attend in person, by using the Zoom link below, or by viewing the meeting via YouTube

https://bloomfieldct.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MVuylhgTSgWxxlNEkTGrhg

YouTube:

https://youtube.com/live/FeAC2Ek1mZI?feature=share

AGENDA

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

III. Announcements and Presentations

A. Proclamation – National First Responders Day
B. David Mann Flag – Presentation
C. Board of Education Updates

IV. 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.

V. Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development – Mayor Anthony Harrington
B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding – Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd
C. Public Health, Safety & Environment – Councilor Todd Cooper
D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services – Councilor Michael Oliver
E. Committee on Committees – Councilor Darrell Goodwin

VI. Council Business

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes:
- October 13, 2026

B. Appointment of the Professional School Representative on the Youth Diversion Team and Youth Adult Council

Old Business

2027-06: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Appointments of Committee on Committees' Recommendation for: Board of Assessment Appeals

New Business

2027-11: Consider and Take Action Regarding Amendment of Previously Approved September 28, 2026, Town Council Meeting Minutes

VII. Report from the Town Manager

VIII. Report from the Mayor

IX. Council Comments

X. Adjournment

Proclamation

National First Responders Day

WHEREAS, first responders—including public works professionals, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, 911 operators, paramedics, and other emergency personnel—stand on the front lines of our communities, selflessly serving and protecting the citizens of Bloomfield in times of crisis; and,

WHEREAS, first responders respond swiftly and courageously to emergencies, often putting their own lives at risk to ensure the safety and well-being of others, whether in natural disasters, accidents, medical emergencies, or public health and safety threats; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in Bloomfield to gain knowledge of and maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and other first responder efforts in their respective communities; and,

WHEREAS, as of 2019, the US Senate has included language recognizing public works alongside fellow/other first responders,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Harrington, do hereby designate October 28, 2026, as National First Responders Day. I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies paying tribute to our public works first responders alongside law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, 911 operators, and other emergency personnel, to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and advancing the quality of life for all.

Dated at Bloomfield, Connecticut, this 26th Day of October 2026

_____

Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor

Deputy Mayor Cindy Lloyd, Councilor Michael J. Oliver,
Councilor Todd Cooper, Councilor Darrell Goodwin,
Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Councilor Joseph P. Merritt,
Councilor Shamar Mahon and Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse

September
Town Council Report

Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent
Ms. Lynette Easmon, Board of Education Chair
October 26, 2026

Planting Seeds, Inspiring Growth, Cultivating Excellence

1



Bloomfield Public Schools

Planting Seeds, Inspiring Growth & Cultivating Excellence

District Priorities:

- Building & Sustaining Effective Teams
- Student Outcomes
- Parent & Community Engagement
- Efficient Operations

2

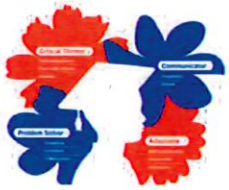
Bloomfield Public Schools

Our Vision for Teaching and Learning:

Bloomfield Public Schools is committed to improving educational outcomes by creating a rigorous, high-quality learning environment where motivation sparks curiosity and resilience drives perseverance for students and adults. As problem solvers and communicators, we foster adaptability and critical thinking, preparing everyone to navigate an ever-evolving world and thrive in an interconnected society.



Portrait of a Graduate



3

Bloomfield Public Schools

District Highlights:

- Bloomfield's Board of Education earned CABE Level Two Leadership Award
- Bloomfield Public Schools' Food Service Department has partnered with East Granby Public Schools to expand meal services
- Bloomfield High School's Young Men's & Young Women's Leadership clubs participated in the Youth Empowerment Conference at the Legislative Office Building on October 22nd.

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Bloomfield Public Schools

District Highlights:

- CSDE Invitation to present at Performance Matters:
  -Curriculum Revival and TLL Coherence
  -October 30th at the Convention Center
- Engage2 Learn Collaboration
  -Regional Roadshow Event on December 9th
  -Jim Knight, nationally known author, speaker, consultant
  -Bloomfield High School Library
- Bloomfield High School Collaborates with the RISE Network
  -Postsecondary Summit November 18th
- CABE/CAPSS Convention November 20th-21st
  -BHS student attendance
  -Board of Education Recognition

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Collaboration with the Town

Environmental/ Sustainability Work:

- Nick Gabuzda, Environmental Planner
- Elimination of Plastic Utensils (CAMS Pilot Site)
- Composting Grant Application (CT Grown for CT Kids)
- Collaboration between the Town, Food Service & Schools

Social & Youth Services:

- School Representatives on the Youth Diversion Team & Youth Adult Council

Board of Education, Town Council & Community:

- Energy Efficient Investments (EEI)
- Strategic Planning Sessions/Surveys

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Bloomfield Public Schools

Facilities Updates:

In Progress:
- Sheetrock Repair @ GEMS
- Metacomet Bathroom Addition
- Vo-Ag Barn
- Preliminary Relocation Plans Central Offices to Arace
- BATV Relocation from Arace to 330 Park Avenue

Future Project:
- Agri-Science Bathroom Addition

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Bloomfield Public Schools

Introducing the
BHS Civics' Student Volunteers

Harrison Close

Jonique Wilson

Julian Schwartz

Jacob Raines

8

Bloomfield Public Schools:

Questions, Comments,
More Information Needed

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes
   - October 13, 2026
B. Appointment of the Professional School Representative on the Youth Diversion Team and Adult Council

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

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Tuesday, October 13, 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, Oliver, ***via Zoom:*** Councilor(s) Deputy Mayor Lloyd, Mahon, DeBeatham-Brown

Councilors absent: Councilor(s) Goodwin & Cooper

Also present were: ***In-Person***—Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Jon Colman, Director Building and Land Use; Elizabeth Lane, Library Director; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; ***via Zoom:*** Alvin D. Schwpp, Jr., Town Manager; Andrea DiStephan, Town Clerk; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; Town Attorney Andrew Crumbie, Crumbie Law

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

Mayor Harrington discussed October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month and asked for the rules to be suspended to allow the resolution to be read. It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to suspend the rules to allow a resolution recognizing October 2026 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Mayor Harrington read the following resolution:

Resolution recognizing October 2026 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Whereas October is nationally recognized as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to promote early detection honor survivors, remember those lost, and support individuals and families affected by breast cancer.

And ***whereas*** breast cancer continues to affect countless families, early detection, education, and access to quality healthcare are essential to improving outcomes and saving lives.

And ***whereas*** disparities in access and screening, diagnosis, and treatment remind us of the importance of advancing health equity and ensuring that all residents have opportunities to receive preventive care.

And ***whereas*** the town of Bloomfield recognizes the courage of those living with breast cancer, the strength of survivors, the dedication of caregivers and healthcare professionals, and the memory of those whose lives have been lost.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Bloomfield Town Council hereby recognizes October 2026 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the town of Bloomfield, and be it further resolved that the Town Council encourages residents, healthcare providers, community organizations, and local institutions to promote awareness, support early detection, and work together to reduce barriers to breast cancer screening and treatment.

Be it finally resolved that the Town of Bloomfield, and Bloomfield Town Council stands in solidarity with all individuals and families affected by breast cancer and reaffirms its commitment to a healthier, more informed and compassionate community.

Adopted by the Bloomfield Town Council, this date October 13th, 2026.

Announcements and Presentations

Mrs. Andrea DiStephan, Town Clerk, provided an overview of Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act (FIOA) requirements, which grant the public access to government records and meetings. Bloomfield received 202 FOIA requests in 2026, compared with 134 in 2025 and 31 in 2024. Of the requests reported, 130 were closed and 72 remained open and in progress.

Town Clerk DiStephan explained that requests range from routine document retrieval to complex requests involving multiple departments, extensive records, sensitive information, and redactions. She highlighted a six-page request concerning surveillance technology, including automated license plate readers, enforcement cameras, drones, contracts, policies, audit logs, and communications dating back to 2018, emphasizing the significant staff time and coordination required to respond to complex requests.

She further explained that FOIA requests require coordination among departments, IT, and legal counsel to locate, review, redact, and produce records. The Town is developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with the Town Manager to transition from a Clerk-managed process to an agency-managed response, consistent with FOI Commission recommendations. Under the proposed process, departments would acknowledge requests, conduct searches, communicate directly with requesters, release records, and document and close requests. The Town Clerk would continue providing weekly reports on outstanding requests.

During Council discussion, members questioned whether the Town could charge fees for extensive requests and whether request volume could be limited. Town Clerk DiStephan explained that fees are generally limited to allowable charges for paper copies and certain media or data-conversion services. Councilors also raised concerns about the growing workload and its impact on the Town's budget. In response to a question from Councilor Oliver about using artificial intelligence or other technology to streamline the process, Town Clerk DiStephan identified GoldFynch as a potential tool for eliminating duplicate records and narrowing search results. She noted that further research would be needed to assess its cost and effectiveness.

Town Manager Schwapp thanked Town Clerk DiStephan for her presentation and described the significant operational burden created by the increase in FOIA requests. He noted that requests have risen sharply and expressed concern that some may be generated using AI to overwhelm Town resources, requiring extensive staff research, legal review, and redaction. Town Manager

Schwapp emphasized that staff must respond to every request carefully and that the Town is holding weekly status meetings to monitor outstanding requests. In response to Mayor Harrington's question about previously acquired software, Town Manager Schwapp indicated that the software was a valuable purchase but would be made available to the public once the Town's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is finalized.

Councilor Merritt highlighted the impact of outstanding FOIA requests on other municipal responsibilities, noting that the Finance Department reportedly had approximately 40 requests pending and lacked the capacity to research potential state laws that could help address significant property tax increases following revaluation.

Councilor Mahon cautioned against portraying residents' requests for information as malicious or an attack on the Town. He noted that residents and Council members have increasingly been directed to use the FOIA process for information that previously may have been provided through routine inquiries. He emphasized that increased public engagement and residents' interest in municipal government should be recognized rather than characterized negatively.

In response, Town Manager Schwapp clarified that FOIA requests do not require a specific form and may be submitted verbally, in writing, or by telephone. He reiterated the Town's responsibility to respond to public information requests while acknowledging the operational challenges involved. Mayor Harrington thanked Town Clerk DiStephan for the presentation.

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. Shelby Young, 31 Alexander Rd., owner of Cottage Grove Business Park at 112–116 Cottage Grove Road, reported that the team is completing the HEDCO Cottage Grove HomeRoots Initiative Planning Grant for the Community Investment Fund. She noted the Town's positive response to the initiative and announced plans to apply for the second phase, the construction grant, opening October 26. Ms. Young requested a new letter of support from the Town Council for the upcoming application.

2. Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, 25 Fairfield Ln., provided an update on changes to SNAP and Medicaid (HUSKY Health), including new SNAP work requirements that may be met through employment, training, education, or volunteer service. She encouraged residents to use the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) online pre-screener to determine potential eligibility concerns and noted that information would be shared with the Town's Social Services Department. She also announced a health fair at First Cathedral on November 7, with DSS and Access Health participating, and reminded residents that the energy assistance application portal is open. Mrs. DeBeatham-Brown urged residents, including older adults, to stay informed about eligibility changes and encouraged breast cancer screening and genetic testing, sharing a personal message about her family's experience as breast cancer survivors.

3. Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Lane criticized the Town Manager's comments during the FOIA discussion, alleging that the Town Manager had previously been fined $1,500 by the FOI Commission for withholding information and misleading the Commission. Mr. Kirton then raised concerns about the Town Council's oversight of the Town Manager-appointed Blue-Ribbon Committee, arguing that Council members were delegating their responsibilities rather than exercising appropriate oversight. He questioned the committee's selection process and cited potential conflicts of interest involving four organizations he identified in correspondence submitted to the Council.

4. Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Rd., addressed concerns about the committee's legitimacy and encouraged respectful dialogue, emphasizing that residents can disagree without personal attacks. She stated that her committee membership would not prevent her from continuing to ask questions, offer criticism, and participate in public discussions. Mrs. Barringer also commented on the Town's Civic Plus Next Request FOIA software, noting that her May request had been logged into the system but that the portal's functionality remained in testing four months later. She expressed hope that the system would become operational soon so residents could benefit from improved public records access.

Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development

Mayor Harrington reported that the subcommittee's next meeting is scheduled for November 2. He provided updates on several development projects, including the Cottage Grove Road project involving four new businesses, which is progressing toward completion, and the Popeyes development, which is nearing its final stages. He noted that Geisler's had agreed to repave the entire parking lot in conjunction with the Popeyes project. Mayor Harrington also reported that the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is nearing completion and is expected to be submitted to the Council of Governments (COG) soon for review.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding

Deputy Mayor Lloyd announced that the Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, at 6:00 PM.

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment

Deputy Mayor Lloyd reported in the absence of Councilor Cooper reported that the Governance, Policy & Economic Development Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, October 14, at 6:00 P.M.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services

Councilor Oliver announced that Social and Youth Services' annual Season of Giving program is accepting registrations for Thanksgiving baskets and holiday items, with a deadline of October

30. Residents may contact Paola Vargas at Social and Youth Services for information. Oliver also reported attending the Youth Adult Council meeting, where members discussed allocating approximately $3,000 toward community needs, including graduation gifts. The next Youth Adult Council meeting is scheduled for November 10.

E. Committee on Committees

Mayor Harrington read (on behalf of Councilor Darrell Goodwin) subcommittee report noting that the Committee on Committees met the previous week to support community participation and leadership across Bloomfield's boards and commissions. The committee welcomed Yvonne Davis for a presentation on the YWCA 50-50 Campaign and interviewed new applicants and reappointment candidates for the Bloomfield Beautification Committee and Commission on Aging. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to broad community participation and ensuring that boards and commissions reflect the diversity, experience, and talents of Bloomfield residents. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Wintonbury Room at Town Hall.

Council Business

Consent Agenda:

A. **Approval of Minutes**

- September 28, 2026

B. Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

C. Appointment of the Professional School Representative on the Youth Diversion Team

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

NEW BUSINESS

2027-07: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Explore Repurposing and Issue a Request for Proposals of 44 Griffin Road South (former GEMS Building)

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Oliver and voted unanimously to open the floor for discussion.

Director Colman reported that the Board of Education had vacated the GEMS building and returned it to the Town for future use. The Board of Education agreed to fund building maintenance through June 30. He requested Council authorization for the Town Manager to retain a qualified consultant to explore options for repurposing the property through sale or lease. He also proposed allowing direct discussions with interested municipal agencies, while requiring non-municipal entities to participate through the Town's standard Request for Proposals (RFP)

process. The Town Manager will return to the Council with recommendations for its final decision.

Councilors discussed the GEMS building reuse and disposition. Councilor Merritt supported selling the GEMS building to generate revenue for the upcoming budget year and potentially reduce the need for a tax increase. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown agreed, stating that the Town should not become a landlord and should sell the property.

Councilor Mahon supported considering a commercial lease to generate ongoing revenue, while Councilor Oliver requested estimates of potential rental income and clarification regarding damage to the building. Mayor Harrington noted that repairs may be needed before the property can be sold or leased. Director Colman explained that rental estimates and comparative financial information would be included in the Town's analysis.

Town Manager Schwapp favored evaluating the property's long-term revenue potential, including approximately $50,000 in potential annual tax revenue from commercial use. He also clarified that the building's condition reflected normal wear and tear from equipment removal and that the Board of Education had not neglected the property. The Council discussed evaluating both sale and lease options before making a final decision.

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Oliver and voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to explore the repurposing of the town-owned property located at 44 griffin Road South, the former GEMS school building, and to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals for the reuse of the property, with any proposal selected through this process to be returned to the Town Council for review and approval prior to any sale, lease, or other disposition of the property.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown proposed a friendly amendment, seconded by Councilor Oliver after the original motion had already been approved. The friendly amendment failed.

2027-08: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Collective Bargaining Contract of the United Public Service Employees Union Local 424- Unit 8

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Oliver and voted unanimously to table this item.

2027-09: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Collective Bargaining Contract of the Teamsters Local 671

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Oliver and voted unanimously to table this item.

Report from Town Manager

Town Manager Schwapp reported that the employee transition plan was completed, recognizing eight employees who retired by October 2, 2026, with a combined 190 years of service. He announced the appointments of Malcolm Archibald, Ulrich Bryce, and Catania Huey to the Economic Development Commission/Development Authority. He reported that the Town had provided more than $4,200 in oil assistance to eight households since July and anticipated spending three to four times more on oil assistance this fiscal year due to rising costs. He noted that additional funding of $5,000, $7,500, or $10,000 could help support more households through the Crisis Fund. Community updates included the upcoming Trunk or Treat event, the library's Purple Thursday domestic violence awareness initiative with Interval House, and notices regarding Town office closures.

Town Manager Schwapp also reported that the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) found the allegations concerning the 2025 charter question were unsupported by the evidence and law, stating that the resulting investigation cost Bloomfield taxpayers approximately $5,000. He concluded by reaffirming his and Town staff's commitment to serving the community.

Council Comments

A. Harrington

Mayor Harrington expressed support for the candidates recommended by the Committee on Committees and acknowledged the challenges of the appointment process. He emphasized the importance of economic development to expand the Town's tax base and help ease residents' tax burden. He thanked those involved in reopening the mall and reported that the Town, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and other organizations, was working to connect affected businesses with assistance for lost food, damaged equipment, and lost wages. He also noted that Niagara Bottling planned to recognize the Town during its upcoming 10th anniversary celebration. Mayor Harrington encouraged residents to support local businesses and urged businesses to connect with the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce for additional support.

S. DeBeatham-Brown

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown noted that she also needed to submit a formal information request and suggested that when FOIA requests involve the Council, members should be informed and given an opportunity to provide input. She expressed concern that the full Council had not provided clear direction to the Town Manager regarding the budget process and urged Council members to work together to establish priorities and guidance for the Town Manager's advisory committee. She also recognized the recently departed Town employees, describing them as family and thanking them for their years of service. Finally, she thanked Councilor Goodwin for bringing forward the proclamation recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

S. Mahon

Councilor Mahon apologized for attending remotely due to not feeling well and encouraged others to stay healthy. He acknowledged Breast Cancer Awareness Month and recognized survivors and those affected by the disease. Regarding FOIA requests, he noted that his concerns were based on experiences with multiple past and acting Town Managers. He emphasized the importance of the Council's upcoming responsibilities, particularly the budget process and Town Manager evaluation. He also thanked residents who continued to meet with him and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown to discuss community concerns and potential solutions.

M. Oliver

Councilor Oliver expressed enthusiasm about attending the Town's Halloween event on Friday with his daughter and thanked everyone for attending and participating in the evening's presentations.

J. Merritt

Councilor Merritt discussed his efforts to explore legal options to reduce the impact of property tax increases resulting from the recent revaluation. He apologized if his prior comments offended anyone and clarified that he did not intend to criticize the Board of Assessment Appeals or the Finance Department. He explained that he had explored whether assessment adjustments could provide relief to residents experiencing significant tax increases but decided not to pursue the effort further after determining that it was unlikely to produce results.

E. Waterhouse

Councilor Waterhouse thanked everyone for coming out.

C. Lloyd

Deputy Mayor Lloyd encouraged continued efforts to identify ways to mitigate property tax increases for Bloomfield residents. She noted that she had previously shared information with former Director Hill regarding the Homestead Act and other state programs that may provide assistance to seniors, veterans, and residents with disabilities. She emphasized the importance of reviewing all available options to help residents and stated that she would continue working with Councilor Merritt to explore potential tax relief measures.

Mayor Harrington encouraged residents to support local businesses as the holiday season approaches, particularly those at Wintonbury Mall that experienced a two-week disruption in service. He noted that affected businesses and employees experienced lost wages, food, personal items, and business contracts. He specifically encouraged residents to patronize the Thai restaurant, JXC, Carbone's, and local hair establishments as they work to recover and rebuild their customer base.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:38 P.M., it was moved by Mayor Harrington, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to move into Executive Session with the Town Councilors.

At 9:00 P.M., Councilor DeBeatham-Brown exited the executive session and returned at 9:01 P.M.

At 9:05 P.M., the motion was moved by Councilor Waterhouse, seconded by Councilor Oliver to exit executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:07 P.M.

TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT

OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

MEMO

To: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

Cc: India Rodgers & Latonia Tabb, Operations and Communications
Tiffany Wright & Angelica Thompson, Social & Youth Services
Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Bloomfield Public Schools

From: Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary

Date: October 19, 2026

Subject: **Appointment of Professional School Representatives on Youth Diversion Team and Youth Adult Council**

There are current openings for Bloomfield Public School staff/professional representatives on both the Youth Diversion Team (YDT) and the Youth Adult Council (YAC).

Having a school representative is a requirement for each of these groups. (Having more than one representative on YDT allows staff members to rotate participation based on their school schedules).

The below Bloomfield Public School staff members have been identified for appointment to these boards by Superintendent Dr. Tracy Youngberg, and their appointment is requested by Social & Youth Services staff.

Please note: Staff & Professional representatives are not required to fill out interest forms or interview with Committee on Committees.

It is requested that Town Council appoint the following:

- **For Youth Diversion Team, with a term ending 6/25/27:**
  - Cindy Ahearn
  - Vanity Smith
  - Yhane Williams

- **For Youth Adult Council, with a term ending 12/1/27:**
  - Elka Spencer

TO: Town Councilors

FROM: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager ADS

DATE: October 22, 2026

RE: FY 2027-06: COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR: BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

At the September 28, 2026, Town Council meeting, this item was presented under the New Business category. Councilor Mahon moved to table consideration and possible action on the Board of Assessment Appeals appointments, and Councilor Merrit seconded the motion.

The attached memorandum from Recording Secretary Lynn Weisel, dated October 20, 2026, outlines the Committee on Committees' recommendations for appointments to the Board of Assessment Appeals. The number of applicants exceeds the number of available vacancies.

The following are the recommended candidates for the Board of Assessment Appeals:

Harriet Howard (D)

Meredith Johnson (U)

William Ortiz (D)

Should the Council wish to move forward, the following motion would be in order:

Move to appoint the Board of Assessment Appeals Candidates recommended by the Committee on Committees for a term ending November 8, 2027.

TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT

OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

MEMO

To: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

Cc: India Rodgers & Latonia Tabb, Operations and Communications
Pam Gengenbach & Vincentia Midodzi, Assessor's Office

From: Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary

Date: October 14, 2026

Subject: Committee on Committees' Appointment Recommendations for Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA)

Listed below are the Board of Assessment Appeals applicants—there were four applicants for three available slots. The full 3-member Board needs to be appointed for a term ending 11/8/27. At least one member needs to be from a minority party. This item was tabled at the 9/28/26 Town Council meeting.

Attached to this memo are the interest forms for all the applicants.

Of Note: *There is an upcoming Board of Assessment Appeals training on 11/23/26 (with a 11/16/26 registration deadline), so it is requested that BAA appointments be made as soon as possible to allow appointees to attend this important training.*

Recommended Candidates (Recommended by majority of COC; recommendations meet applicable political party representation requirements):

- Harriet Howard (Democrat), current member seeking reappointment, interviewed 7/9/26
- Meredith Johnson (Unaffiliated), current member seeking reappointment, interviewed 7/9/26
- William Ortiz (Democrat), current chair seeking reappointment, interviewed 7/9/26

Additional Candidate (Did not receive enough votes for COC recommendation):

- Su'Nia Bailey (Democrat), new applicant seeking appointment, interviewed 7/9/26

Should Town Council wish to move forward by appointing the candidates recommended by Committee on Committees, the following motion would be in order:

"Move to appoint the Board of Assessment Appeals candidates recommended by Committee on Committees, for a term ending 11/8/27."

RECEIVED
DEC 16 2025
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

Boards & Commissions Reappointment Request

Current Town of Bloomfield Board/Commission Member,

Thank you for serving as a volunteer on a Town of Bloomfield Board or Commission.

Once your current term has expired, your seat will be considered open and residents of the town will be able to apply for the position. If you are interested in being reappointed and would like to continue to serve in your current capacity, please fill out the below reappointment request. (If you'd prefer to fill this out online, please visit bloomfieldct.gov/boards-commissions-reappointment-request).

If you are no longer interested in serving after your term expires, please notify the Town Clerk's office at (860)769-3507.

Please note--this form is for reappointments to a Board or Commission. If you are applying for the first time to a Board or Commission, please use the Boards & Commissions Interest Form.

A full summary of all the Boards & Commissions is available at bloomfieldct.gov/boards-commissions.

First & Last Name: Harriette Howard

Political Affiliation (circle one): (Democrat) Republican Unaffiliated Other

Which Board or Commission are you reapplying for?

TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD

How long have you been serving on this Board or Commission?

OVER 10 YEARS

Continued ⟶

Please tell us how you have been a contributing member to this Board and Commission.

my previous 28 years as a retired investigator with the Hartford Public Defenders office helps me make the best decisions for the town of Bloomfield.

Why would you like to continue serving on this Board or Commission?

"I am so proud" to serve as a member of this board. I have always been fair, and a team player, resulting in the best decision for our Town.

In addition to your experience serving on this Board or Commission, do you have any other expertise or experience we should be aware of that is an asset to this position?

In the yr. "2 thousand", my involvement 1/4yr. term was responsible for bringing the school uniform to our Town.

Is there anything the town or Town Council can do to help this Board or Commission perform more effectively?

I would say No. However the other Bd. members view their role as seriously as myself, as a team making the best decisions for our Town.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?

Bloomfield can rest assure of my commitment. When I step into Town Hall, I am no longer a resident, instead a member of a Board, whose interest is making the best decisions for the Town of Bloomfield.

Upon completion, please return this form to the Town Clerk's office (Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Ave.; Open M-F, 9AM - 5PM). Forms submitted online are automatically delivered to the Town Clerk's office.

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

Boards & Commissions Reappointment Request

Current Town of Bloomfield Board/Commission Member,

Thank you for serving as a volunteer on a Town of Bloomfield Board or Commission.

Once your current term has expired, your seat will be considered open and residents of the town will be able to apply for the position. If you are interested in being reappointed and would like to continue to serve in your current capacity, please fill out the below reappointment request. (If you'd prefer to fill this out online, please visit bloomfieldct.gov/boards-commissions-reappointment-request).

If you are no longer interested in serving after your term expires, please notify the Town Clerk's office at (860)769-3507.

Please note--this form is for reappointments to a Board or Commission. If you are applying for the first time to a Board or Commission, please use the Boards & Commissions Interest Form.

A full summary of all the Boards & Commissions is available at bloomfieldct.gov/boards-commissions.

First & Last Name: Meredith Johnson

Political Affiliation (circle one): Democrat Republican (Unaffiliated) Other

Which Board or Commission are you reapplying for?

Tax Assessment Board of Appeals

How long have you been serving on this Board or Commission?

2019

Continued ——▶

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Please tell us how you have been a contributing member to this Board and Commission.

I have been participating with other Boards consistently

Why would you like to continue serving on this Board or Commission?

Yes

In addition to your experience serving on this Board or Commission, do you have any other expertise or experience we should be aware of that is an asset to this position?

Licensed social Worker

Is there anything the town or Town Council can do to help this Board or Commission perform more effectively?

Community Engagement

Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?

Upon completion, please return this form to the Town Clerk's office (Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Ave.; Open M-F, 9AM - 5PM). Forms submitted online are automatically delivered to the Town Clerk's office.

Scanned with CamScanner

Samantha Strader

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Lynn Weisel; Town Clerk; Brian Wolff; India Rodgers; Anna Posniak
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Boards & Commissions Reappointment Request

CAUTION EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Boards & Commissions Reappointment Request

Town of Bloomfield Board/Commission Member,

Thank you for serving as a volunteer on a Town of Bloomfield Board or Commission. Once your current term has expired, your seat will be considered open and residents of the town will be able to apply for the position. If you are interested in being reappointed and would like to continue to serve in your current capacity, please fill out the following reappointment request.

If you are no longer interested in serving after your term expires please notify the Town Clerk's office at 860-769-3507.

You may also print out the reappointment request (PDF) and mail or drop it off at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall (800 Bloomfield Avenue). All online forms are automatically routed to the Town Clerk's office for processing.

Please note - this form is for reappointments to a Board or Commission. You can also apply for the first time to a Board or Commission.

See a summary of the Boards and Commissions in Bloomfield.

First Name	william
Last Name	ortiz
Email Address	
Address	
City	bloomfield

RECEIVED
DEC 09 2025
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

State	CT
Zip Code	06002
Phone Number	
Political Affiliation	Democrat
Which Board or Commission are you reapplying for?	Board of Assessment Appeals
How long have you been serving on this Board or Commission?	12yrs, +
Please tell us how you have been a contributing member to this Board or Commission:	I have been consistant in serving for all the years that I have been a member. I have always attempted to take into consideration the needs of the town as well as its residents.
Why would you like to continue serving on this Board or Commission?	I have been retired since 2011 and I believe that I can still serve the town of Bloomfield. In addition I have the experience and knowledge required to make fair decisions regarding assessments.
In addition to your experience serving on this Board or Commission, do you have any other expertise or experience we should be aware of that is an asset to this position?	I have been a property manager, I have owned property and I have also taken real estate courses at UCONN.
Is there anything the town or Town Council can do to help this Board or Commission perform more effectively?	I believe that we are getting the full support of the town and the Council.
Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?	Only that I would like to acknowledge the Assessors Office staff for all of the support and good work that they do.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

Matt Teubner

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 1:44 PM
To: Lynn Weisel; Town Clerk; Brian Wolff; India M. Rodgers
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Boards & Commissions Interest Form

CAUTION EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Boards & Commissions Interest Form

Thank you for your interest in serving as a volunteer on a Town of Bloomfield Board or Commission.

See a summary of the Boards and Commissions in Bloomfield.

Please note - this form is for **first-time applicants** to a Board or Commission. If you are applying for reappointment to a Board or Commission, please fill out the Reappointment Request Form.

You may also print out the application form (PDF) and mail or drop it off at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall (800 Bloomfield Avenue). All online forms are automatically routed to the Town Clerk's office for processing. The Town Clerk then passes the forms on to the Town Council sub-committee, Committee on Committees, and they will be in touch with you regarding next steps.

First Name	SuNia
Last Name	Bailey
Email Address	
Address	
City	Bloomfield
State	Connecticut
Zip Code	06002
Phone Number	

Political Affiliation	Democrat
Board or Commission for which you would like to be considered	Board of Assessment Appeals
Each Board and Commission has its own meeting schedule and time commitments. Are you able to commit at least 2 hours per month to attend regular meetings? Do you have any current conflicts that would prevent you from attending monthly meetings, approximately one evening per month?	Yes, I can commit to 2-3 hours a month to donate my time to enrich my community.
Many Boards and Commissions do not require any specific experience and are primarily looking for dedicated volunteers. If you have any experience, education, interest or other background information that may be relevant to the particular Board/Commission you are interested in please share it here:	I am an active Realtor serving the Greater Hartford Area since 2018, with over $5 million in sales volume and hands-on experience as a local property owner and small business operator in Bloomfield. My background provides me with a strong understanding of property values, market trends, and fair assessments. As a long-time resident since 2014 and an active community member who has served on community boards for GHAR. and youth-focused boards in other organizations. I am well prepared to contribute thoughtful, balanced decisions on any board that I serve on.
Please share why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission:	I am passionate about serving my community and making a meaningful impact where there is a need. While the opportunity presented itself previously, the timing was not ideal. I am now in a position where I can fully commit and contribute.
Have you contacted any current members or attended any meetings on the	No, I have not.

Board/Commission that interests you?	
Please list any other Boards/Commissions you would like to learn more about during your interview.	Zoning Board of Appeals is also a intrest of mine.
Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?	No, not at this time

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.



TO: Town Councilors

FROM: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager ADS

DATE: October 22, 2026

RE: FY 2027-11: AMENDMENT OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

At the October 13, 2026, Town Council meeting, this item was presented under the Consent Agenda, discussed, and approved. However, two motions were inadvertently omitted from the record. Accordingly, the item is being resubmitted to the Town Council for corrective action.

The attached memorandum from the Recording Secretary, Lynn Weisel, dated October 20, 2026, provides specific details regarding the previously approved minutes and the necessary corrections.

Should Council wish to move forward, the following motion will be in order:

Move to amend the previously adopted September 28, 2026, Town Council meeting minutes by replacing the text under New Business item 2027-26 (on page 6) with the text as written in the attached amended September 28, 2026, meeting minutes (on pages 6 and 7).

AMENDED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE MISSING MOTIONS

The updated language to include the missing motions is below, and is also highlighted in the attached amended minutes on pages 6 &7:

It was moved by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown that the applicants suggested by Committee on Committees presented to the Council be accepted for appointment by the Council.

There was a friendly amendment to separate each Board in order for the Council to vote for each Board individually. Councilor Goodwin did not accept the friendly amendment. There was a disagreement on who made the initial motion, and as a point of order, it was left to Mayor Harrington to decide.

It was determined that each Board would be voted on separately.

Councilor Mahon motioned to table the consideration and possible action on Board of Assessment Appeals appointments. It was seconded by Councilor Merritt.

•VOTE:

AYE: T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, S. Mahon, A. Harrington

NAY: D. Goodwin

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed 6-1-0.

Councilor Mahon moved to appoint the recommendations from Committee on Committees for the Emergency Medical Systems Committee.

•VOTE:

AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, J. Merritt, S. Mahon

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: T. Cooper, M. Oliver

The motion passed 5-0-2.

Councilor Mahon moved to appoint the recommendations from Committee on Committees for the Youth Adult Council. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded.

•VOTE:

AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, J. Merritt, S. Mahon

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: T. Cooper, M. Oliver

The motion passed 5-0-2.

TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT

OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

MEMO

To: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

Cc: India Rodgers & Latonia Tabb, Operations and Communications

From: Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary

Date: October 20, 2026

Subject: Amending 9/28/26 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Town Council approved the 9/28/26 Town Council meeting minutes at their meeting on 10/13/26. However, the approved minutes did not include two motions that were made at the 9/28/26 meeting.

The motions occurred at the 9/28/26 Town Council meeting under New Business, "*2027-06: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Appointments of Committee on Committees' Recommendations for: Board of Assessments Appeals. Emergency Medical Systems Committee and Youth Adult Council*" and can be viewed on the YouTube recording of the meeting beginning at the 1 hour 33 minute mark here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlqWn-r058g

LANGUAGE IN APPROVED MINUTES

Current language in approved minutes (attached here, on 9/28/26 meeting minutes page 6), states:

There was discussion. It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Council Merritt and voted to table this committee appointment

- *VOTE:*
  - *AYE: T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, S. Mahon, A. Harrington*
  - *NAY: D. Goodwin*
  - *ABSTAIN: None*
  - *Motion passed: 6-1-0*

AMENDED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE MISSING MOTIONS

The updated language to include the missing motions is below, and is also highlighted in the attached amended minutes on pages 6 &7:

It was moved by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown that the applicants suggested by Committee on Committees presented to the Council be accepted for appointment by the Council.

There was a friendly amendment to separate each Board in order for the Council to vote for each Board individually. Councilor Goodwin did not accept the friendly amendment. There was a disagreement on who made the initial motion, and as a point of order, it was left to Mayor Harrington to decide.

It was determined that each Board would be voted on separately.

Councilor Mahon motioned to table the consideration and possible action on Board of Assessment Appeals appointments. It was seconded by Councilor Merritt.

- *VOTE:*
  - *AYE: T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, S. Mahon, A. Harrington*
  - *NAY: D. Goodwin*
  - *ABSTAIN: None*
  - *The motion passed 6-1-0.*

Councilor Mahon moved to appoint the recommendations from Committee on Committees for the Emergency Medical Systems Committee.

- *VOTE:*
  - *AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, J. Merritt, S. Mahon*
  - *NAY: None*
  - *ABSTAIN: T. Cooper, M. Oliver*
  - *The motion passed 5-0-2.*

Councilor Mahon moved to appoint the recommendations from Committee on Committees for the Youth Adult Council. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded.

- *VOTE:*
  - *AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, J. Merritt, S. Mahon*
  - *NAY: None*
  - *ABSTAIN: T. Cooper, M. Oliver*
  - *The motion passed 5-0-2.*

HOW TO AMEND APPROVED MINUTES

I reached out to Attorney Crumbie on how to amend meeting minutes that have already been approved. He states, *"...parliamentary rules suggest the way to handle this error is for the council to prepare 'amended minutes' that are clearly denoted as an amendment to the original document. Once prepared, a motion needs to be made to 'amend something previously adopted'. Once seconded and passed, the 2 sets of minutes, the old minutes plus the amended minutes attached, clearly marked 'amended minutes', should be forwarded to the Town Clerk for posting online within the seven-day period."*

MOTION

Should Town Council wish to move forward with amending the approved 9/28/26 Town Council meeting minutes, the following motion would be in order:

"Move to amend the previously adopted 9/28/26 Town Council meeting minutes by replacing the text under New Business item 2027-26 (on page 6) with the text as written in the attached amended 9/28/26 meeting minutes (on pages 6 and 7)."

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

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Monday September 28, 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) Merritt, DeBeatham-Brown, ***via Zoom:*** Councilor(s) Goodwin, Oliver, Mahon, Cooper

Councilors absent: Deputy Mayor Lloyd, Councilor(s) Waterhouse

Also present were: ***In-Person***—Alvin D. Schwpp, Jr., Town Manager; India Rodgers, Director Operations & Communications; Jon Colman, Director Building and Land Use; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant ***via Zoom:*** Alvin D. Schwpp, Jr., Town Manager; Town Attorney Andrew Crumbie, Crumbie Law; Donna Stewart, Director of Finance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements and Presentations

Dr. Youngberg, Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools, provided an update on the district's priorities, student achievement, enrollment, academic programming, and facilities. She highlighted efforts to improve the State Accountability Index, expand career pathways at Bloomfield High School, and maximize resources through school consolidations and the Alternative Learning Center. Dr. Youngberg also reviewed ongoing facility needs and funding challenges, including limited capital improvement funding, and expressed a desire to work with the Town on long-term solutions.

Councilor Cooper thanked Dr. Youngberg for establishing regular briefings with the Town Council and noted that Bloomfield's population is increasing, although much of the growth is among residents without children. He also stated that he expects the State's declining student population trend to eventually reverse.

Councilor Merritt commented on Dr. Youngberg's work and questioned whether declining enrollment and school consolidation would result in lower costs. Dr. Youngberg explained that the district expects long-term savings from consolidations, but immediate costs remain associated with moving out of facilities, staffing changes, and other transition needs. She noted that the district has not yet realized anticipated savings from the GEMS and central office transitions and emphasized the need for long-range planning.

Mayor Harrington expressed support for the district's efforts to address declining enrollment and improve services and facilities, noting that many Bloomfield students continue to attend schools outside the district. He stated that continued improvements to the schools could encourage more students to return to Bloomfield Public Schools. Dr. Youngberg agreed, emphasizing that adequate operating and capital funding is necessary to maintain facilities and support the district's programs.

Councilor Cooper reminded the Council that the Town budget serves more than 22,000 residents and stated that this broader responsibility should remain a primary consideration when evaluating municipal and Board of Education funding. Dr. Youngberg offered to invite the Connecticut Finance Project to provide the Council with data regarding the number of Connecticut municipalities where the school budget represents less than 50% of the overall municipal budget.

Councilor Merritt noted that the Town continues to pay debt service associated with prior school renovations. Dr. Youngberg clarified that the discussion primarily involved the 2008 renovations to the elementary schools, A-Race, and portions of the high school.

Councilor Mahon reminded the Council that the purpose of the presentation was to provide an update on the Board of Education and school district and stated that the budget discussion should not detract from that purpose. Dr. Youngberg concluded by stating that she will continue providing monthly updates and may bring staff, students, and parents to future meetings to highlight district programs and initiatives.

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. Rev. Suzette DeBeatham-Brown- 25 Fairfield Lane provided information regarding anticipated changes to SNAP and HUSKY D benefits beginning October 1. She encouraged residents who may be affected to contact CRT and review DSS resources and noted that eligible residents who lose SNAP benefits may qualify for a one-time $300 grocery card. Rev. DeBeatham-Brown offered to provide additional information at a future meeting and to share resources with the Director of Operations and Communications and Social Services.

2. Gail Riley, 8 Maple Ave., questioned the Town Council's delay in filling in the Ethics Commission and expressed concern that the commission has been vacant for several years. She also raised concerns regarding a recent Governance Committee meeting that lacked a quorum, stating that the meeting should have been canceled rather than requiring a developer to appear when the committee could not take action.

3. Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Lane expressed concern about the condition of school facilities and stated that students and families deserve greater investment in the school system. He shared concerns that inadequate school conditions could influence families' decisions to attend

Bloomfield Public Schools and emphasized the importance of transparency, communication, and public trust regarding the Town Manager's proposed Blue-Ribbon Committee.

4. Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Rd., commented on Dr. Youngberg's presentation and expressed support for the district's focus on accountability, student outcomes, and school facilities. She voiced concern regarding the lack of recent capital improvement funding and encouraged continued collaboration among the Superintendent, Board of Education, and Town Council to improve school facilities and provide students with well-rounded opportunities.

5. (online) Peter C. Frank, Mallory Ridge, building 2- (see attached)

6. (online) Kate Keefe, 16 Breezy Knoll Drive, raised concerns regarding a Freedom of Information request submitted on May 4 and stated that, despite multiple follow-ups, several Town departments had not responded. She questioned the status of the Town's FOI management software and expressed concern regarding the Town's handling of FOI requests and compliance with applicable requirements.

7. (online) James Biffer, 17 Terry Plains Rd., questioned the Town Manager's authority to establish the proposed Citizen Budget Committee and raised concerns regarding its composition and public accessibility. He also questioned the timeliness of Town Council meeting minutes and urged the Council to address what he characterized as ongoing Charter and FOIA compliance issues.

8. Wendy Williams, 48 Gabb Rd., thanked Dr. Youngberg for providing monthly updates and emphasized the importance of strong public schools to the Town's future. She encouraged the Town to take a broader, long-term approach to budgeting and capital improvements, including creative community solutions to address facility needs and other infrastructure concerns.

Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development

Mayor Harrington reported on governance, policy, and economic development. He noted that updates on Rockwell Park would be provided later in the meeting and stated that the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) had been reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, with minor changes forthcoming prior to approval and a public hearing. He also reported that the Town was not awarded CIF funding and would pursue other options.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding

No report

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment

Councilor Cooper reported that the scheduled meeting did not take place and, therefore, there was no report. He thanked the Town and residents for their patience during his recent absence and stated that he looked forward to returning to work with the Council and serving residents.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services

Councilor Oliver reported on the Community Services Subcommittee, which discussed energy assistance, the Renters' Rebate program, a $40 farmers market gift card, and summer youth programs. He reported that 16 youth participated in a Tier 1 program focused on financial literacy, employable skills, and college and career exposure. He also provided an update on the upcoming Makerspace/trades program and stated that the matter would continue through the Workforce Committee to provide residents with an opportunity to receive information and comment.

E. Committee on Committees

Councilor Goodwin reported that most committees would come before the Council for appointments, with the Fair Rent Commission, Public Arts Commission, Recreation Commission, and Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee scheduled for October 13. He noted that an interview with the Commission on Aging would also be scheduled and that recruitment would begin again for committees with terms expiring in November. Councilor Goodwin also clarified that the Town Council, rather than the Town Manager or Committee on Committees, is responsible for appointments to the Ethics Commission.

Council Business

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes

- September 14, 2026
- April 20, 2026
- April 21, 2026

B. Appointments of the Committee on Committees' Recommended Candidates for the Bloomfield Housing Authority, Economic Development Commission/Development Authority, Golf Advisory Committee, Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Commission, Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee, and Youth Diversion Team

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

OLD BUSINESS

2027-04: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Request for a Revision of Building Permit and Land Use Application Fee

Director Colman reviewed proposed amendments to the Building and Land Use Department's building and permit fee structure, which had been incorporated into the FY2027 revenue projections. He noted that a public hearing had been held and advised the Council that it could waive the reading of the full resolution before voting to adopt the fee structure and establish its effective date.

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to waive the reading of the resolution.

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon, and voted unanimously, that the Town Council approve the resolution presented, approving the amendments to Chapter 6, Building Division, Chapter 15, Planning and Zoning of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinance, revising the building permit and land use application fee schedule as described in the Director of Building and Land Use's memorandum dated August 18th, 2026 and as recommended by staff, with the amendment to become effective October 13, 2026, subject to final review by the town attorney for statutory compliance and ordinance form.

NEW BUSINESS

2027-05: Consider and Take Action Regarding Technology Enhancements for Town Council Chambers Room

Mr. Warren Plummer, Director of Information Technology, presented a proposed $7,329.51 microphone controller to improve control of meeting microphones, audio, and video. He explained that the purchase would address current equipment issues and allow the Town to upgrade the Council Chambers in phases rather than incur a larger one-time cost.

Councilors discussed the need for improved meeting accessibility and transparency. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed concern about spending outside the budget without a broader plan, while Councilors Merritt and Cooper discussed whether the purchase should first be reviewed through the Town Manager or a subcommittee. Councilor Cooper supported the purchase as a cost-effective first step, and Councilor Goodwin stated that the investment would improve accessibility and allow for phased future upgrades.

Councilor Goodwin moved to call the question, seconded by Councilor Oliver. It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted to refer to Governance, Policy & Economic Development Subcommittee meeting for further discussion.

VOTE: **AYE:** S. DeBeatham-Brown, S. Mahon, J. Merritt, A. Harrington

NAY: T. Cooper, M. Oliver, D. Goodwin

ABSTAIN: None

Motion failed: 4-3-0

2027-06: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Appointments of Committee on Committees' Recommendations for: Board of Assessments Appeals, Emergency Medical Systems Committee and Youth Adult Council

There was discussion. It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Council Merritt and voted to table this committee appointment

VOTE: AYE: T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, S. Mahon, A. Harrington

NAY: D. Goodwin

ABSTAIN: None

Motion passed: 6-1-0

Report from Town Manager

Town Manager Alvin Schwapp Jr. addressed concerns regarding statements made about members of the Board of Assessment and emphasized the importance of recognizing and respecting residents who volunteer to serve the Town. Director of Finance Donna Stewart then presented the Town Manager's report, including updates on the organizational transition and retirements, recruitment, FY2028 budget planning, FY2025 and FY2026 audits, capital improvement planning, economic development, and community updates. Councilor Mahon expressed concern regarding the Town Manager's comments and requested greater transparency regarding the membership and selection process for the proposed Blue-Ribbon Budget Committee. Mayor Harrington noted that the Town Manager had planned individual discussions with Council members and directed the matter back to the Town Manager for response.

Town Manager clarified that the committee is advisory, not a commission, and stated that members had not yet been finalized pending an initial meeting to establish expectations. He also stated that the October 6 meeting would be public, although no Zoom option was planned.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed that she would have preferred the Town Manager to consult with the Town Council regarding the budget process and budget guidelines before convening the proposed Blue-Ribbon Committee. She encouraged the Council to establish clear budgetary priorities and suggested that Councilors engage with Bloomfield residents to gather input on community priorities and how tax dollars should be spent.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown also expressed appreciation and regret that several long-term Town employees were leaving without an opportunity for formal recognition prior to their departure. She acknowledged that a future Town Hall reception is planned and expressed her gratitude and respect for the employees' years of service in the Town.

Town Manager Schwapp thanked Councilor DeBeatham-Brown for her comments regarding departing employees. He noted that the employees' departures had been known since the conclusion of the budget season and expressed his hope that Council members had used the intervening months to personally acknowledge and thank the departing employees. He explained that scheduling conflicts, including his current medical situation, prevented their recognition at the meeting and reiterated that the employees were deserving of the Council's thanks, praise, and well wishes.

Council Comments

Mayor Harrington

Mayor Harrington congratulated the Town staff and Council members who contributed to the CIF proposal and legislative outreach. He reported that state officials encouraged the Town to reapply and indicated that reducing community tensions and working collaboratively on outstanding issues would strengthen future funding opportunities. He noted that the Town is pursuing additional avenues for funding and redevelopment, including the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority and potential Tax Increment Financing (TIF) efforts.

Mayor Harrington also thanked the Town Manager and Building Inspector for their continued efforts regarding the Wintonbury Mall and acknowledged the impacts on tenants, including losses of food and equipment. He stated that the Town would continue efforts to address the situation and keep the community informed of any decisions.

T. Cooper

Councilor Cooper thanked Town residents, those attending in person and online, as well as Town administration, leadership, and his fellow Council members for their work. He noted that despite differing perspectives, the Council is able to work collaboratively and expressed optimism about upcoming initiatives and positive developments for the Town. He reiterated his commitment to representing Bloomfield residents and expressed appreciation for the community's continued support.

S. DeBeatham-Brown

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown emphasized that the Council is strengthened by resident engagement and welcome community feedback. She requested greater clarity regarding the Town's FOI process and a list of outstanding FOI requests, noting concerns about processing delays. She reiterated the importance of Council direction on the budget, transparency in spending taxpayer dollars, and advance Council review of proposals involving potential funding, including the makerspace event proposal. She encouraged greater transparency to strengthen residents' trust and noted that the upcoming budget process may be more constrained than in previous years. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown also expressed concern about the two-minute time limit for elected officials' comments.

S. Mahon

Councilor Mahon expressed relief that power had been restored to Wintonbury Mall and acknowledged the impact of the outage on local businesses and their owners. She congratulated the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and the Town on another successful Food Truck Festival and expressed hope for continued success.

Councilor Mahon requested that the Council's Rules of Procedure be placed on a future agenda for review, including the time limit for Council comments and other provisions established by the previous administration. She also expressed concern regarding litigation affecting the Town and encouraged the Council to follow established rules and procedures to help avoid future litigation.

M. Oliver

Councilor Oliver thanked the Town for the Food Truck Festival and expressed appreciation for the event, noting the variety of food, crafts, and opportunities for families to gather. Regarding the trades program, he stated that he supports expenditures only when they have been properly authorized through a vote of the appropriate committee or Town Council and emphasized the importance of following the proper legal process.

J. Merritt

Councilor Merritt expressed disappointment that the Council's speaking time was not increased from two to three minutes and requested that the matter be addressed at a future meeting. He also expressed concern about the process of placing Councilor-requested items on the agenda and recalled that such requests had previously been routinely accommodated or addressed by the mayor. Councilor Merritt expressed support for efforts toward a fairer tax assessment process. He stated that he believes the Town's overall tax burden is reasonable but acknowledged concerns regarding significant increases affecting certain taxpayers and emphasized the importance of addressing those concerns.

D. Goodwin

Councilor Goodwin referenced correspondence regarding increased federal immigration enforcement activity and community safety concerns. He requested that a previously submitted resolution concerning Bloomfield's response to immigration enforcement, with a focus on community trust, public safety, and residents' rights, be brought before the Town Council for discussion and consideration. He expressed his willingness to work with Council members and Town staff to support a safe, informed, and respectful community.

Councilor Goodwin also acknowledged Indigenous Peoples Day and encouraged the community to recognize and honor the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. He further encouraged Council members to address concerns regarding individuals serving on Town committees directly and, when appropriate, communicate with those individuals before discussing their service publicly at a Council meeting.

Mayor Harrington thanked the Superintendent for the presentation and expressed support for continuing monthly discussions regarding school activities, developments, and partnerships with colleges and universities. He acknowledged Goman + York for their work on the CIF proposal and stated that the Town would continue to rely on their assistance moving forward.

Mayor Harrington also congratulated the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and Vera Winfrey on the successful Food Truck Festival and noted the potential for future community events. He encouraged residents to support local businesses at Wintonbury Mall and emphasized the importance of supporting the mall's businesses and tenants.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

AMENDED

Changes highlighted in yellow

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

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Monday September 28, 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) Merritt, DeBeatham-Brown, ***via Zoom:*** Councilor(s) Goodwin, Oliver, Mahon, Cooper

Councilors absent: Deputy Mayor Lloyd, Councilor(s) Waterhouse

Also present were: ***In-Person***—Alvin D. Schwpp, Jr., Town Manager; India Rodgers, Director Operations & Communications; Jon Colman, Director Building and Land Use; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant ***via Zoom:*** Alvin D. Schwpp, Jr., Town Manager; Town Attorney Andrew Crumbie, Crumbie Law; Donna Stewart, Director of Finance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements and Presentations

Dr. Youngberg, Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools, provided an update on the district's priorities, student achievement, enrollment, academic programming, and facilities. She highlighted efforts to improve the State Accountability Index, expand career pathways at Bloomfield High School, and maximize resources through school consolidations and the Alternative Learning Center. Dr. Youngberg also reviewed ongoing facility needs and funding challenges, including limited capital improvement funding, and expressed a desire to work with the Town on long-term solutions.

Councilor Cooper thanked Dr. Youngberg for establishing regular briefings with the Town Council and noted that Bloomfield's population is increasing, although much of the growth is among residents without children. He also stated that he expects the State's declining student population trend to eventually reverse.

Councilor Merritt commented on Dr. Youngberg's work and questioned whether declining enrollment and school consolidation would result in lower costs. Dr. Youngberg explained that the district expects long-term savings from consolidations, but immediate costs remain

associated with moving out of facilities, staffing changes, and other transition needs. She noted that the district has not yet realized anticipated savings from the GEMS and central office transitions and emphasized the need for long-range planning.

Mayor Harrington expressed support for the district's efforts to address declining enrollment and improve services and facilities, noting that many Bloomfield students continue to attend schools outside the district. He stated that continued improvements to the schools could encourage more students to return to Bloomfield Public Schools. Dr. Youngberg agreed, emphasizing that adequate operating and capital funding is necessary to maintain facilities and support the district's programs.

Councilor Cooper reminded the Council that the Town budget serves more than 22,000 residents and stated that this broader responsibility should remain a primary consideration when evaluating municipal and Board of Education funding. Dr. Youngberg offered to invite the Connecticut Finance Project to provide the Council with data regarding the number of Connecticut municipalities where the school budget represents less than 50% of the overall municipal budget.

Councilor Merritt noted that the Town continues to pay debt service associated with prior school renovations. Dr. Youngberg clarified that the discussion primarily involved the 2008 renovations to the elementary schools, A-Race, and portions of the high school.

Councilor Mahon reminded the Council that the purpose of the presentation was to provide an update on the Board of Education and school district and stated that the budget discussion should not detract from that purpose. Dr. Youngberg concluded by stating that she will continue providing monthly updates and may bring staff, students, and parents to future meetings to highlight district programs and initiatives.

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. Rev. Suzette DeBeatham-Brown- 25 Fairfield Lane provided information regarding anticipated changes to SNAP and HUSKY D benefits beginning October 1. She encouraged residents who may be affected to contact CRT and review DSS resources and noted that eligible residents who lose SNAP benefits may qualify for a one-time $300 grocery card. Rev. DeBeatham-Brown offered to provide additional information at a future meeting and to share resources with the Director of Operations and Communications and Social Services.

2. Gail Riley, 8 Maple Ave., questioned the Town Council's delay in filling in the Ethics Commission and expressed concern that the commission has been vacant for several years. She also raised concerns regarding a recent Governance Committee meeting that lacked a quorum, stating that the meeting should have been canceled rather than requiring a developer to appear when the committee could not take action.

3. Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Lane expressed concern about the condition of school facilities and stated that students and families deserve greater investment in the school system. He shared concerns that inadequate school conditions could influence families' decisions to attend Bloomfield Public Schools and emphasized the importance of transparency, communication, and public trust regarding the Town Manager's proposed Blue-Ribbon Committee.

4. Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Rd., commented on Dr. Youngberg's presentation and expressed support for the district's focus on accountability, student outcomes, and school facilities. She voiced concern regarding the lack of recent capital improvement funding and encouraged continued collaboration among the Superintendent, Board of Education, and Town Council to improve school facilities and provide students with well-rounded opportunities.

5. (online) Peter C. Frank, Mallory Ridge, building 2- (see attached)

6. (online) Kate Keefe, 16 Breezy Knoll Drive, raised concerns regarding a Freedom of Information request submitted on May 4 and stated that, despite multiple follow-ups, several Town departments had not responded. She questioned the status of the Town's FOI management software and expressed concern regarding the Town's handling of FOI requests and compliance with applicable requirements.

7. (online) James Biffer, 17 Terry Plains Rd., questioned the Town Manager's authority to establish the proposed Citizen Budget Committee and raised concerns regarding its composition and public accessibility. He also questioned the timeliness of Town Council meeting minutes and urged the Council to address what he characterized as ongoing Charter and FOIA compliance issues.

8. Wendy Williams, 48 Gabb Rd., thanked Dr. Youngberg for providing monthly updates and emphasized the importance of strong public schools to the Town's future. She encouraged the Town to take a broader, long-term approach to budgeting and capital improvements, including creative community solutions to address facility needs and other infrastructure concerns.

Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development

Mayor Harrington reported on governance, policy, and economic development. He noted that updates on Rockwell Park would be provided later in the meeting and stated that the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) had been reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, with minor changes forthcoming prior to approval and a public hearing. He also reported that the Town was not awarded CIF funding and would pursue other options.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding

No report

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment

Councilor Cooper reported that the scheduled meeting did not take place and, therefore, there was no report. He thanked the Town and residents for their patience during his recent absence and stated that he looked forward to returning to work with the Council and serving residents.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services

Councilor Oliver reported on the Community Services Subcommittee, which discussed energy assistance, the Renters' Rebate program, a $40 farmers market gift card, and summer youth programs. He reported that 16 youth participated in a Tier 1 program focused on financial literacy, employable skills, and college and career exposure. He also provided an update on the upcoming Makerspace/trades program and stated that the matter would continue through the Workforce Committee to provide residents with an opportunity to receive information and comment.

E. Committee on Committees

Councilor Goodwin reported that most committees would come before the Council for appointments, with the Fair Rent Commission, Public Arts Commission, Recreation Commission, and Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee scheduled for October 13. He noted that an interview with the Commission on Aging would also be scheduled and that recruitment would begin again for committees with terms expiring in November. Councilor Goodwin also clarified that the Town Council, rather than the Town Manager or Committee on Committees, is responsible for appointments to the Ethics Commission.

Council Business

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes

- September 14, 2026
- April 20, 2026
- April 21, 2026

B. Appointments of the Committee on Committees' Recommended Candidates for the Bloomfield Housing Authority, Economic Development Commission/Development Authority, Golf Advisory Committee, Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Commission, Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee, and Youth Diversion Team

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

OLD BUSINESS

2027-04: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Request for a Revision of Building Permit and Land Use Application Fee

Director Colman reviewed proposed amendments to the Building and Land Use Department's building and permit fee structure, which had been incorporated into the FY2027 revenue projections. He noted that a public hearing had been held and advised the Council that it could waive the reading of the full resolution before voting to adopt the fee structure and establish its effective date.

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to waive the reading of the resolution.

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon, and voted unanimously, that the Town Council approve the resolution presented, approving the amendments to Chapter 6, Building Division, Chapter 15, Planning and Zoning of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinance, revising the building permit and land use application fee schedule as described in the Director of Building and Land Use's memorandum dated August 18th, 2026 and as recommended by staff, with the amendment to become effective October 13, 2026, subject to final review by the town attorney for statutory compliance and ordinance form.

NEW BUSINESS

2027-05: Consider and Take Action Regarding Technology Enhancements for Town Council Chambers Room

Mr. Warren Plummer, Director of Information Technology, presented a proposed $7,329.51 microphone controller to improve control of meeting microphones, audio, and video. He explained that the purchase would address current equipment issues and allow the Town to upgrade the Council Chambers in phases rather than incur a larger one-time cost.

Councilors discussed the need for improved meeting accessibility and transparency. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed concern about spending outside the budget without a broader plan, while Councilors Merritt and Cooper discussed whether the purchase should first be reviewed through the Town Manager or a subcommittee. Councilor Cooper supported the purchase as a cost-effective first step, and Councilor Goodwin stated that the investment would improve accessibility and allow for phased future upgrades.

Councilor Goodwin moved to call the question, seconded by Councilor Oliver. It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted to refer to Governance, Policy & Economic Development Subcommittee meeting for further discussion.

VOTE: AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, S. Mahon, J. Merritt, A. Harrington

NAY: T. Cooper, M. Oliver, D. Goodwin

ABSTAIN: None

Motion failed: 4-3-0

2027-06: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Appointments of Committee on Committees' Recommendations for: Board of Assessments Appeals, Emergency Medical Systems Committee and Youth Adult Council

It was moved by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown that the applicants suggested by Committee on Committees presented to the Council be accepted for appointment by the Council.

There was a friendly amendment to separate each Board in order for the Council to vote for each Board individually. Councilor Goodwin did not accept the friendly amendment. There was a disagreement on who made the initial motion, and as a point of order, it was left to Mayor Harrington to decide.

It was determined that each Board would be voted on separately.

Councilor Mahon motioned to table the consideration and possible action on Board of Assessment Appeals appointments. It was seconded by Councilor Merritt.

VOTE: AYE: T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, S. Mahon, A. Harrington

NAY: D. Goodwin

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed 6-1-0.

Councilor Mahon moved to appoint the recommendations from Committee on Committees for the Emergency Medical Systems Committee.

VOTE: AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, J. Merritt, S. Mahon

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: T. Cooper, M. Oliver

The motion passed 5-0-2.

Councilor Mahon moved to appoint the recommendations from Committee on Committees for the Youth Adult Council. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown seconded.

VOTE: **AYE**: S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, J. Merritt, S. Mahon

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: T. Cooper, M. Oliver

The motion passed 5-0-2.

Report from Town Manager

Town Manager Alvin Schwapp Jr. addressed concerns regarding statements made about members of the Board of Assessment and emphasized the importance of recognizing and respecting residents who volunteer to serve the Town. Director of Finance Donna Stewart then presented the Town Manager's report, including updates on the organizational transition and retirements, recruitment, FY2028 budget planning, FY2025 and FY2026 audits, capital improvement planning, economic development, and community updates. Councilor Mahon expressed concern regarding the Town Manager's comments and requested greater transparency regarding the membership and selection process for the proposed Blue-Ribbon Budget Committee. Mayor Harrington noted that the Town Manager had planned individual discussions with Council members and directed the matter back to the Town Manager for response.

Town Manager clarified that the committee is advisory, not a commission, and stated that members had not yet been finalized pending an initial meeting to establish expectations. He also stated that the October 6 meeting would be public, although no Zoom option was planned.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed that she would have preferred the Town Manager to consult with the Town Council regarding the budget process and budget guidelines before convening the proposed Blue-Ribbon Committee. She encouraged the Council to establish clear budgetary priorities and suggested that Councilors engage with Bloomfield residents to gather input on community priorities and how tax dollars should be spent.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown also expressed appreciation and regret that several long-term Town employees were leaving without an opportunity for formal recognition prior to their departure. She acknowledged that a future Town Hall reception is planned and expressed her gratitude and respect for the employees' years of service in the Town.

Town Manager Schwapp thanked Councilor DeBeatham-Brown for her comments regarding departing employees. He noted that the employees' departures had been known since the conclusion of the budget season and expressed his hope that Council members had used the intervening months to personally acknowledge and thank the departing employees. He explained that scheduling conflicts, including his current medical situation, prevented their recognition at

the meeting and reiterated that the employees were deserving of the Council's thanks, praise, and well wishes.

Council Comments

Mayor Harrington

Mayor Harrington congratulated the Town staff and Council members who contributed to the CIF proposal and legislative outreach. He reported that state officials encouraged the Town to reapply and indicated that reducing community tensions and working collaboratively on outstanding issues would strengthen future funding opportunities. He noted that the Town is pursuing additional avenues for funding and redevelopment, including the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority and potential Tax Increment Financing (TIF) efforts.

Mayor Harrington also thanked the Town Manager and Building Inspector for their continued efforts regarding the Wintonbury Mall and acknowledged the impacts on tenants, including losses of food and equipment. He stated that the Town would continue efforts to address the situation and keep the community informed of any decisions.

T. Cooper

Councilor Cooper thanked Town residents, those attending in person and online, as well as Town administration, leadership, and his fellow Council members for their work. He noted that despite differing perspectives, the Council is able to work collaboratively and expressed optimism about upcoming initiatives and positive developments for the Town. He reiterated his commitment to representing Bloomfield residents and expressed appreciation for the community's continued support.

S. DeBeatham-Brown

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown emphasized that the Council is strengthened by resident engagement and welcome community feedback. She requested greater clarity regarding the Town's FOI process and a list of outstanding FOI requests, noting concerns about processing delays. She reiterated the importance of Council direction on the budget, transparency in spending taxpayer dollars, and advance Council review of proposals involving potential funding, including the makerspace event proposal. She encouraged greater transparency to strengthen residents' trust and noted that the upcoming budget process may be more constrained than in previous years. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown also expressed concern about the two-minute time limit for elected officials' comments.

S. Mahon

Councilor Mahon expressed relief that power had been restored to Wintonbury Mall and acknowledged the impact of the outage on local businesses and their owners. She congratulated

the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and the Town on another successful Food Truck Festival and expressed hope for continued success.

Councilor Mahon requested that the Council's Rules of Procedure be placed on a future agenda for review, including the time limit for Council comments and other provisions established by the previous administration. She also expressed concern regarding litigation affecting the Town and encouraged the Council to follow established rules and procedures to help avoid future litigation.

M. Oliver

Councilor Oliver thanked the Town for the Food Truck Festival and expressed appreciation for the event, noting the variety of food, crafts, and opportunities for families to gather. Regarding the trades program, he stated that he supports expenditures only when they have been properly authorized through a vote of the appropriate committee or Town Council and emphasized the importance of following the proper legal process.

J. Merritt

Councilor Merritt expressed disappointment that the Council's speaking time was not increased from two to three minutes and requested that the matter be addressed at a future meeting. He also expressed concern about the process of placing Councilor-requested items on the agenda and recalled that such requests had previously been routinely accommodated or addressed by the mayor. Councilor Merritt expressed support for efforts toward a fairer tax assessment process. He stated that he believes the Town's overall tax burden is reasonable but acknowledged concerns regarding significant increases affecting certain taxpayers and emphasized the importance of addressing those concerns.

D. Goodwin

Councilor Goodwin referenced correspondence regarding increased federal immigration enforcement activity and community safety concerns. He requested that a previously submitted resolution concerning Bloomfield's response to immigration enforcement, with a focus on community trust, public safety, and residents' rights, be brought before the Town Council for discussion and consideration. He expressed his willingness to work with Council members and Town staff to support a safe, informed, and respectful community.

Councilor Goodwin also acknowledged Indigenous Peoples Day and encouraged the community to recognize and honor the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. He further encouraged Council members to address concerns regarding individuals serving on Town committees directly and, when appropriate, communicate with those individuals before discussing their service publicly at a Council meeting.

Mayor Harrington thanked the Superintendent for the presentation and expressed support for continuing monthly discussions regarding school activities, developments, and partnerships with

colleges and universities. He acknowledged Goman + York for their work on the CIF proposal and stated that the Town would continue to rely on their assistance moving forward.

Mayor Harrington also congratulated the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and Vera Winfrey on the successful Food Truck Festival and noted the potential for future community events. He encouraged residents to support local businesses at Wintonbury Mall and emphasized the importance of supporting the mall's businesses and tenants.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M.