Revised

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

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, November 9, 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) Oliver, DeBeatham-Brown & Merritt ***via Zoom:*** Councilor(s) Deputy Mayor Lloyd, Waterhouse, & Mahon

Councilors absent: Councilor(s) Goodwin, & Cooper

Also present were: ***In-Person***—Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; ***via Zoom:*** Alvin D. Schwpp, Jr., Town Manager; Town Attorney Andrew Crumbie, Crumbie Law Group (7:04pm)

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

Announcements and Presentations

There were no announcements or presentations.

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. Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, 25 Fairfield Ln., congratulated the DOJO CMA students at Geissler's Plaza, recognizing eight students who earned 13 trophies at the national championship, and commended Landon, his team, and Master Lee. She also wished residents and veterans, including the Town Manager, a Happy Veterans Day. She raised concerns about residents experiencing difficulties obtaining information through FOIA requests, including receiving heavily redacted responses, and urged the Town Council and Town Manager to make the process more transparent. Lastly, she encouraged residents to support the Lions Club food drive at 330 Park Avenue on November 21 to help families in need during the holiday season.

2. Roger Bunker, 28 Old Village Rd., raised concerns about the lack of publicly communicated policies and procedures guiding residents on how to respond to ICE activity in Bloomfield, including how residents should handle encounters or safely document potential misconduct. He acknowledged the Council's recent action on the issue but emphasized the need for clear, accessible guidance for residents. He also expressed concern about staffing changes within Youth

Services, including the retirement of the director and an experienced social worker, the consolidation of positions, and another social worker's resignation. He urged the Council to carefully review Youth Services staffing, programs, and support to ensure the needs of Bloomfield youth continue to be met.

3. Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Rd., encouraged residents to maintain civility and respect when expressing disagreements, emphasizing the importance of focusing on issues rather than personal attacks, regardless of differing opinions or political affiliations. She also urged the Town Council to prioritize filling vacant and expired terms on boards and commissions and to proactively identify upcoming vacancies to accommodate residents who have expressed interest in serving. Lastly, she promoted Bloomfield's upcoming holiday festivities on December 5, including Breakfast with Santa, a Chamber of Commerce pop-up event at First Congregational Church benefiting Bloomfield Social Services, and the annual holiday parade and Christmas tree lighting at Town Green.

4. Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Ln., expressed concern about the lack of public discussion on important Town business as the budget season approaches, questioning whether matters are being discussed outside public meetings or not being addressed at all. He referenced his recent email to the Council regarding the reported budget surplus and requested that the Town Council or Town Manager provide clarification to residents, particularly given the combination of tax increases and reported surplus funds.

5. (online) Elizabeth Lane, (Library Director) 1 Tunxis Ave., announced four upcoming library programs and community services: an Intro to Podcasting workshop at Prosser Library on November 10; a job fair, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Labor, featuring employers from various industries, including the Town of Bloomfield and Bloomfield Police Department; a November 19 Native American Heritage Month storytelling program; and a Connecticut DMV mobile services event at Prosser Library on November 19, offering license renewals, REAL ID upgrades, and other services. She emphasized BPL's commitment to bringing resources, services, and learning opportunities directly to the community.

6. (online) Kate Keefe, 16 Breezy Knoll Dr., congratulated Bloomfield's Champions Martial Arts athletes on earning 13 medals, mostly gold, at the CMA National Championships and recognized Master Lee for his contributions to the community. She also commended Councilors DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, and Waterhouse for their committee work, noting improvements in transparency and public access to the committee process. She then raised concerns about delays and difficulties obtaining public records through FOIA requests, citing outstanding requests involving Charter Revision communications, the Town Manager's performance evaluation, NIPS surcharge payments, and purchasing records related to RFP 1143. She described a pattern of requests being divided among departments, closed before records are provided, or redirected between offices. She urged the Council to address these concerns and

ensure residents receive public records and responses to their written inquiries as required by law.

7. Shelby Young, 31 Alexander Rd., announced an upcoming HEDCO Community Engagement Final Report presentation on November 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 330 Park Avenue. She noted that the report would share findings from five community focus groups, which included participation from the mayor, communications staff, and other Town representatives. She highlighted the value of the information gathered and encouraged continued community engagement and participation in future focus groups.

Council Business

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to remove item B from to the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes

- October 26, 2026

B. Appointments of the Committee on Committees' Recommended Candidates for the Bloomfield Beautification Committee, Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee, Fair Rent Commission, Public Art Commission, Recreation Committee

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted to approve the minutes from October 26, 2026.

VOTE: AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J Merritt, E. Waterhouse, C. Lloyd, A. Harrington
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: S. Mahon

Motion Pass 6-0-1

New Business

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Oliver and voted unanimously to table this agenda item until the next regularly scheduled meeting for Monday, November 23, 2026, at 7pm and add the item under New Business number 2027-12: FY2027-12: Consider and Take Action regarding the Appointments of the Committee on Committees' Recommended Candidates for the Bloomfield Beautification Committee, Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee, Fair Rent Commission, Public Art Commission, Recreation Committee

Report from Town Manager

Town Manager Schwapp reported that he would participate in a Veterans Day program at Carmen Arace Middle School, in collaboration with the Board of Education, to share personal service experiences with students. He also noted ongoing discussions with the Board of Education regarding shared services, including after-school programming, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for November 18. He reminded residents that Town offices would be closed on November 11 in observance of Veterans Day and announced the Shred Day and Small Electronics Recycling event scheduled for November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In closing, he acknowledged Councilor DeBeatham-Brown's participation in the weekly FOIA status meetings and praised staff for their continued efforts in managing the increased volume of FOIA requests. He addressed concerns about delays in fulfilling requests, noting that duplicate requests for information previously provided have contributed to the backlog and acknowledged residents' frustrations reassuring the public that staff would continue working through outstanding requests. Town Manager Schwapp encouraged residents to contact his office directly to discuss concerns or arrange an in-person or virtual meeting and directed residents to the Town's website for news and employment opportunities.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown emphasized the need for greater transparency and Council awareness regarding FOIA requests, noting that she was unaware of a particular request and its response and had no involvement in the process. She stated that Council members should have a clearer understanding of how FOIA requests are handled and communicated.

Town Manager Schwapp explained that FOIA responses generally undergo legal review before release and that designated Town staff assist Council members with responding to requests. He noted that Council members are notified when requests involve them and offered Councilor DeBeatham-Brown the opportunity to serve as a Council point of contact and participate directly in the records review process to assist staff and streamline responses.

Council Comments

A. Harrington

Mayor Harrington reported attending the Champions for Interval House breakfast in Simsbury, which drew more than 450 attendees and supported domestic violence services across 24 Connecticut communities. He also highlighted the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation's Bloomfield Community Fund, which awarded $40,000 in grants to nine local organizations supporting youth, health, education, seniors, and community services. He provided updates on Niagara's anticipated arrival and ongoing discussions with Popeyes regarding potential community contributions, including school sponsorships, student scholarships, facility improvements, and support for local initiatives. Lastly, he presented a $440 donation from Composite Lodge No. 22 to the Bloomfield Food Pantry and acknowledged the organization's continued support of Bloomfield through scholarships and school supply initiatives.

S. DeBeatham-Brown

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown read a portion of a letter expressing concern about the Council's lack of discussion regarding Town Manager goals and expectations, budget priorities, and directives as the Town approaches the next budget process. She emphasized the Council's responsibility to provide clear direction, exercise oversight, and ensure decisions reflect residents' interests. She also requested a full Council discussion regarding the time allotted for Councilor comments, noting that multiple Council members had previously raised the issue without it being placed on the agenda. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown clarified that the Lions Club food drive would take place on November 21 and stated that she would forward her letter to the Clerk of Council for the official record.

S. Mahon

Councilor Mahon recognized the Bloomfield Public Library Director Elizabeth Lane and staff for their partnerships with organizations throughout Connecticut, particularly the upcoming DMV mobile services event at Prosser Library, which will provide residents with convenient access to essential services. He also supported Councilor DeBeatham-Brown's request to place Councilor speaking-time limits on a full Council agenda for discussion, emphasizing that the matter deserved consideration even if it did not ultimately move forward. Councilor Mahon also thanked residents for submitting FOIA requests, recognizing their involvement in the community, and expressed hope that the Town could identify ways to respond to requests more promptly.

M. Oliver

Councilor Oliver thanked the residents and wished the Town Manager and everyone a Happy Veterans Day and extended wishes to Councilor Merritt, who is a Navy veteran, and expressed enthusiasm for the Bloomfield Public Library's upcoming job fair. He encouraged residents to attend and explore the employment opportunities available through participating employers.

J. Merritt

Councilor Merritt thanked Director Lane for doing a good job.

C. Lloyd

Deputy Mayor Lloyd congratulated the Department of Public Works on its recognition and upcoming ceremony at the Aqua Turf. She thanked all veterans for their service, extended Veterans Day wishes, and reminded residents about the Town's Shred Day on November 14.

Additional Comments

Mayor Harrington thanked the Department of Public Works and congratulated the Hartford Gives funding recipients. He reported that the Town remains under consideration for a $4 million congressional funding proposal submitted through Goman + York, although its senatorial funding

application was deemed ineligible. He noted that the Town expects to receive a decision on the congressional proposal shortly. He also expressed support for Popeyes' anticipated investment and community contributions, and encouraged other local businesses to assist the Town, particularly in light of the recently presented $2.1–$2.7 million Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M.