

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2015 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Mayor Schulman, Deputy Mayor Joan Gamble, Councilors Wayne Hypolite, Joseph Washington, Joseph Merritt, Joel Neuwirth, Patrick DeLorenzo, Derrick Seldon and Leon Rivers.

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services, Jose Giner, Director of Planning and Economic Development, William Hogan, Director of Finance, Marc Needelman, Town Attorney and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Briefing Regarding Seabury Facility Expansion

Attorney Robert Ginuta of Murtha Cullina and Mr. Richard Heath, Executive Vice President & CEO of Seabury gave a brief update of facility expansion. Attorney Ginuta explained the tax requirements of the Internal Revenue Code requiring that a public hearing be held in the area where the project is located. Mr. Heath elaborated on the status of project details of expansion and renovations.

CITIZENS STATEMENT & PETITIONS

There were no citizen statements or petitions.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Community Services – Councilor Seldon announced several activities and events being held by Senior Services, Social & Youth Services as well as Leisure Services. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Administration & Education – Councilor read the detailed report of the last meeting held on March 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Committee on Committees – Councilor Washington deferred this subcommittee report for further discussion under Council business.

Golf – Councilor Rivers read the detailed report of the last meeting held on February 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Safety – This subcommittee met on March 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Councilor Washington will give a detailed report of this subcommittee at the next scheduled Council meeting, March 23, 2015.

Finance – The next scheduled Finance subcommittee meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. has been cancelled due to the upcoming budget meetings. The FY 15/16 budget season will begin on March 10, 2015. The overall proposed budget reflects an increase of 1.85%, totaling approximately \$83,400,000. There are several significant factors that have increased this budget such as: MDC charges, Board of Education and revaluation results of the Grand List.

Land Use & Economic Development – Deputy Mayor Gamble updated the Council on a skilled manufacturing program for Bloomfield students. This program will focus on skilled labor in manufacturing beginning with students in the 6th grade. Once in high school, students will have the opportunity to earn college credits in partnership with Asnuntuck Community College. Upon graduation, students are eligible to receive one free year of additional college to receive their Associates degree at no cost. The program goal has been proposed to begin in September 2015.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

FY 14/15-19: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution – Town of Bloomfield Affirmative Action Plan

Ms. Marcia Bonitto of Bonitto Associates presented the revised and updated Affirmative Action Plan for the Town of Bloomfield. Ms. Bonitto explained to the Council that the plan has been updated to include the demographics of the Town of Bloomfield in the availability analysis. Based on this revision, new hiring goals by Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Category were established.

In previous discussions and the development of this plan include periodic review of the general plan every three years. However, a review of the hiring goals will be assessed on an annual basis.

There was an ensued discussion of Council regarding the revisions and hiring goals for the Town of Bloomfield.

Councilor Rivers outline the process on how the plan was developed.

Councilor Washington stated that the resolution presented should reflect “affected persons” instead of “persons”.

Attorney Marc Needelman stated that he would recommended not to specify language in the resolution of the Affirmative Action Plan. The current wording is appropriate.

Councilor Hypolite commended Ms. Bonitto on an excellent overview of the plan. He further stated that the ultimate goal of the policy is to address hiring practices to actively reflect demographics of the town. In addition, the Council is fully committed to monitor and administer hiring goals to effectively diversify the workforce.

Councilor Merritt stated that this plan is an excellent document and the Council will make every effort to execute the plan effectively.

Mayor Schulman suggested that the actual commitment of Council as well as Administration to ensure the achievement of set goals and exceeding them.

Councilor Seldon stated the importance of having the appropriate personnel monitor this plan as well.

Councilor Washington commented and expressed dismay about being alienated from the process in developing the Affirmative Action Plan. He referenced an article published on January 16th in the Bloomfield Messenger.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about the plan reporting period implementation since there were three new recent hires to the town.

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Town of Bloomfield to be fair and impartial in all its relations with its employees and applicants in regard to protected groups under equal employment opportunity laws; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Bloomfield has established a policy of affirmatively promoting equal employment opportunities and has prepared for this purpose the Affirmative Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the major emphasis of this Affirmative Action Plan is to take affirmative steps to diversify our workforce and ensure all persons every opportunity to compete for jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield commit the entire Town organization to support in an affirmative manner the policy of equal employment opportunity; and

Now, therefore, it hereby resolved that:

The Affirmative Action Plan be adopted by the Bloomfield Town Council.

The original maker of the motion and seconder agreed to a friendly amendment of the effective approval date of the plan to state March 9, 2015 since the initial date was scheduled Council meeting, February 9, 2015 which was cancelled due to the weather.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 14/15-46: Consider and Take Action Regarding Capital Non-Recurring Expenditures (CNRE) Fund Transfers

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Bloomfield Town Council authorizes the transfer of the \$57,801 from the unencumbered balance from the previously approved capital improvement project “Open Space Acquisition” #11731900 in the Town’s Capital Non-Recurring Fund to a new project “Lisa Lane Farm Improvements” as outlined below per the attached memorandum from the Director of Leisure Services dated March 3, 2015:

| Transfer From: | Amount | | Transfer To: | Amount |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Open Space Acquisition | \$57,801 | 11731900 | LisaLane Farm Improvements | \$57,801 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total | \$57,801 | | Total | \$57,801 |

Mr. David Melesko gave an update of the Lisa Lane project regarding a request from the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditures Fund Transfer.

Councilor Hypolite expressed concerns about the funding source and request clarification of any other pending land acquisition projects for new open space.

Mrs. Lois Hager, 8 Duncaster Road and Mrs. Vikki Reski, 52 Duncaster Road are active members of the Wintonbury Land Trust expressed their opinions to Council regarding current level of funding for the Lisa Lane project as well as national recognition from various media outlets, federal and state governmental agencies.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about who is responsible for paying the utilities on the farm. It was noted that the farmer is responsible for payment and there is an agreement with a neighbor regarding the MDC bill.

FY 14/15-47: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution – Transfers

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Hypolite and voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: In accordance with Section 908 of the Town of Bloomfield Charter, the below transfer of appropriations be approved effective on or after April 1, 2015:

FROM **DEPARTMENT/FUNCTION** **AMOUNT**

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1-950 | Town Council Contingency | \$150,000 |
| 1-910 | Fixed Costs: Heart & Hypertension | \$60,000 |
| 1-905 | Insurances/Bonds | \$5,000 |

The above amounts are to be transferred to the following departments in the 2014-15 General Fund budget:

| <u>TO</u> | <u>DEPARTMENT/FUNCTION</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1-401 | Public Works | \$125,000 |
| 1-145 | Human Resources | \$8,000 |
| 1-970 | Debt Service Interest | \$65,000 |
| 1-721 | Social Services | \$7,000 |
| 1-950 | Town Manager Contingency | <u>\$10,000</u> |
| | TOTAL: | \$215,000 |

Mr. William Hogan, Director of Finance stated these transfers will not take plan until fourth quarter, April 1, 2015.

Councilor Hypolite inquired about the \$65,000 in debt service interest. Mr. Hogan, Director of Finance stated that this amount is the net savings of a bond sale completed in October 2014. When the bonds were sold, the town received a small premium of \$117,000. Approximately, \$64,000 is on the revenue side of the budget from bond interest premium related. The town received a great rate which assisted the town in an upgrade in credit rating.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about line items for Social Services and Town Manager.

Councilor Seldon inquired about the line item presented for Public Works, winter snow removal and clean up.

FY 14/15-48: Consider and Take Action Regarding Appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington to appoint Gail Nolan and Marc Jordan DeSousa to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term ending November 2015.

FY 14/15-39: Consider and Take Action Regarding Appointment to Commission on Aging

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to appoint Charlotte J. Gregg to the Commission on Aging with a term ending November 2017.

FY 14/15-49: Consider and Take Action Regarding Appointments to the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to appoint Wesley David Hager and Vanessa Spence to the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC) with a term ending November 2015.

FY 14/15-50: Consider and Take Action Regarding Appointments to the Bloomfield Housing Authority

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to appoint Harriette Howard to the Bloomfield Housing Authority with a term ending June 30, 2017.

Mayor Schulman stated that this appointment is contingent upon Ms. Howard resigning from the Board of Assessment and Appeals. Attorney Needelman stated that the town charter and code of ordinances only address restrictions regarding Council persons as elected officials being able to serve on any other board or agencies. There is nothing mentioned in these two documents prohibiting someone from serving on two boards or agencies consecutively.

REPORT FROM MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Mayor's Report

Mayor Schulman reminded all that discussions concerning the FY 14/15 Town of Bloomfield budget will begin on March 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager and Goman & York met with representatives from Griffin Land for the Business Visitation program. Griffin Land are the owners of three significant sizeable properties in town.

The Business Association Meeting held on February 23, 2015 attracted 14 vendors. The town and economic development consultants are in the process to initiate a Wintonbury Center Business Association.

The quarterly newsletter will be send out to residents by the end of March.

There are currently openings for Police Officers and summer interns. Contact Human Resources for additional information and requirements.

The Hawk Hill purchase/easement will be concluding the next several weeks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington to approve the minutes of February 17, 2015.

VOTE: AYE: S. Schulman, J. Gamble, W. Hypolite, J. Washington, L. Rivers, P.
 DeLorenzo, J. Merritt, J. Neuwirth
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: D. Seldon

The motion passes, 8-1

It was moved by, Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gamble and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 23, 2015.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor DeLorenzo reminded all residents to donate to the local food and fuel banks.

Councilor Merritt congratulated the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance on the new ambulance and power lift.

Deputy Mayor Gamble encouraged parents of Bloomfield students to attend PTO meetings to support the newly proposed manufacturing program.

Councilor Washington invited Council and others to a celebration honoring him on March 28, 2015 from the New England Annual Lay Conference at the Aqua turf Banquet Facility in Southington, CT.

Councilor Rivers stated that there will be a golf outing at Wintonbury Hills as a fundraiser to support EMS efforts on July 27, 2015.

Mayor Schulman stated that he is happy to be home from vacation and thanked the Deputy Mayor Gamble and Council for their support in his absence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:30 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session A. – Discussion Concerning Possible Acquisition of Real Estate with the Town Council, Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager, Town Attorney, Director of Planning & Development, Mike Goman (Goman & York), Economic Development Commission members (Michelle Bononi, Fred Hesketh, Jerry Katrichis and Harold Harper).

At 10:56 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gamble and voted unanimously to exit Executive Session A.

At 10:59 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session B. – Pending Claims and Litigation with the Town Council, Town Manager, Town Attorney and Assistant to the Town Manager.

At 11:00 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Seldon – Exit Executive Session B.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:01 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington to adjourn the meeting.