

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2015 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

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

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, 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

Proclamation for Women's Lung Health Week (May 11 -15, 2015)

Representatives for this organization were not present to receive their proclamation.

Proclamation for Old Saint Andrews Episcopal Church (Reverend Puck Purnell)

Mayor Schulman presented Rev. Puck Purnell of Old Saint Andrews Episcopal Church with a proclamation in recognition of their 275th Anniversary Celebration.

CITIZENS STATEMENT & PETITIONS

There were no citizens' statements or petitions.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Golf – Councilor Rivers reported Mr. Ciaran Carr, General Manager of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course was honored with the CT Section - Bill Strausbaugh Award. This award is presented to PGA members who have distinguished themselves in the field of club relations and dramatic improvements in employment conditions in their local section and/or PGA of America.

Public Safety – Councilor Washington will give a detailed report at the next scheduled Council meeting on May 26, 2015.

Committee on Committees – The next scheduled meeting of this subcommittee will be held on May 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Land Use & Economic Development – The next scheduled meeting of this subcommittee will be held on May 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor Gamble read statistics from the Hartford Courant in “2015 Best of Hartford Magazine” for Bloomfield.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

FY 14/15-57: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Approval of the Application for the Quality School Readiness Grant Program (Priority School Readiness Municipalities)

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gamble and voted unanimously to approve the signing of the Quality Enhancement Grant.

FY 14/15-58: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution (Partial Replacement of the Roof at the Board of Education Facility)

Mr. Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities and Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operating Officer for the Bloomfield Board of Education presented a resolution to the Council for approval of a partial roof replacement.

Mr. Casper stated that the Board of Education will receive a grant reimbursement rate of 46.79% from the State of Connecticut – Department of Education for this partial roof replacement. The cost estimate for this project is approximately \$405,619 and the grant estimate is \$171,328. Some of the items being replaced are considered ineligible charges, i.e. contingency and skylight.

Mr. Guzman explained the basic requirements of the approved resolution needed for this project: building committee, grant application and schematic drawings. He further explained that the funding for this project will be financed with existing allocations from the FY 14/15 unexpended funds of approximately \$300,000.

Mayor Schulman requested clarification of political affiliation with appointees and reporting requirements of the newly formed building committee.

Councilor DeLorenzo also requested clarification regarding the inclusion of “partial” for roof replacement.

Councilor Rivers and Seldon expressed concerns about the remaining areas of the roof that also need replacement. It was noted that the other areas of the roof will be addressed in FY 15/16 budget.

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

RESOLVED, that the Bloomfield Town Council hereby authorize the Bloomfield Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed (partial) roof replacement project at Bloomfield Board of Education District Offices.

RESOLVED, that a School Building Committee as appointed by the Mayor is hereby established with regard to the proposed roof replacement project at Bloomfield Board of Education District Offices.

RESOLVED, that the Bloomfield Town Council hereby authorizes the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed roof replacement project at Bloomfield Board of Education District Offices.

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to amend the original motion to include the following:

- “partial” roof replacement
- Inclusion of three persons, no names

FY 14/15-59: Consider and Take Action Regarding Acceptance of the Conservation Easement for the Deringer-Ney Site at 353 Woodland Avenue

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to accept the Conservation Easement as set forth in the attached document.

Attorney Marc Needelman stated that this Conservation Easement has not been finalized as of yet, due to an update communications with the applicant's attorney. He recommended deferred taking action at this time and revisit at the next scheduled Council meeting on May 26, 2015.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Seldon to postpone this item until the next scheduled Council meeting on May 26, 2015.

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

REPORT FROM MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Mayor's Report

- On April 30, 2015, Mayor Schulman and other Councilors attended the Bloomfield Public Schools Annual Music & Art Festival at The Bushnell Theatre.
- On May 2, 2015, a Council Retreat was held at St. Thomas Seminary focusing on their "Expanding Our Leadership Capacity".
- On May 2, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended the 65th Anniversary Ball of the West Indian Social Club.
- Also on May 2, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended the Togolese Society Celebration in Hartford, CT.
- On May 3, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended the Law Day Function at the First Cathedral will from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- On May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., the Annual Town Meeting was held at the Bloomfield High School Auditorium to discuss the FY 2015/2016 Town Budget.
- On May 6, 2015 at 12:00 noon, there was a meeting held at Town Hall to discuss the upcoming events for “Celebrate Bloomfield”.
- On May 6, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce hosted the “Bloomfield Annual Dinner”, in which Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager was honored with the Business Leadership Award.
- On May 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., a Day of National Prayer was held at Bloomfield Town Hall in Council Chambers.
- On May 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., the Bloomfield Rotary Club hosted the Paul Harris Annual Dinner and Awards was held at the Mill on the River in South Windsor, CT. Dr. James Thompson was the recipient of this prestigious award.
- On May 9, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., the Wintonbury Land Trust hosted a celebration of the Hawk Hill Land Acquisition at 23 Duncaster Road.
- On May 13, 2015, Mayor Schulman will attended the CRCOG Executive Committee meeting.
- On May 17, 2015, the Sigel Hebrew Academy of Greater Hartford will host their 75th Anniversary Gala beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- On May 18, 2015, CPTV will host a program regarding information with the Metropolitan District Commission.
- On May 20, 2015, Bloomfield High School will host an event honoring retiring teachers with a presentation of certificates.
- On May 21, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., a Grand Opening will be held for a new business in town entitled “Lens Only” located at 812 Park Avenue.
- On May 25, 2015, Bloomfield Leisure Services will host the Annual Memorial Day Parade with a 5K Run, Cemetery Memorial and other activities on the Town Green.

- On June 14, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., a Mayor’s Brunch will be held at the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course honoring Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of the Senior Center.

Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager reported the following updates to the Town Council:

- Mr. Schenck, Jr. reported that the Public Works Department has completed the crack sealing in the road remediation project. In addition, they are also in the process of completing catch basin cleaning.
- Mr. Schenck, Jr. informed residents that the new Amazon Distribution Center is now hiring for vacant positions. To apply visit, www.workatamazonfulfillment.com
- On June 4, 2015, the planting day of the Beautification Committee will take place with the assistance of the Public Works Department. If anyone is interested, they can contact the Town Manager’s Office for more details.
- It was noted that the air conditioning in Town Hall is currently out of service. New units are currently being installed as recommended in the Ameresco Energy study.
- Mr. Schenck, Jr. commented on the upcoming Memorial Day Parade, Hawk Hill Farm Celebration and the Connecticut Economic Resource Council presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve minutes of May 4, 2015 (Special Meeting)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Seldon to approve minutes of April 27, 2015 (Council Meeting).

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

Motion passes (8-1)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington to approve minutes of March 24, 2015 (Town Council Deliberation).

VOTE: **AYE:** S. Schulman, J. Gamble, W. Hypolite, D. Seldon, J. Washington, L. Rivers,

P. DeLorenzo, J. Merritt

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: J. Neuwirth

Motion passes (8-1)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to approve minutes of March 19, 2015 (Town Council Budget Meeting).

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to approve minutes of March 17, 2015 (Town Council Budget Meeting).

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to approve minutes of March 12, 2015 (Town Council Budget Meeting).

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Rivers to approve minutes of March 10, 2015 (Town Council Deliberation).

VOTE: **AYE:** J. Gamble, W. Hypolite, D. Seldon, J. Washington, L. Rivers,
 P. DeLorenzo, J. Neuwirth, J. Merritt

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: S. Schulman

Motion passes (8-1)

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor DeLorenzo thanked Mr. Jose Giner, Director of Planning and Economic Development for hosting the CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) workshop on May 7, 2015.

Councilor Neuwirth reiterated the upcoming events of “Celebrate Bloomfield”, which will begin on May 30 – June 6, 2015.

Deputy Mayor Gamble reminded residents to donate to Foodshare. She also commended Councilor Neuwirth on his planning and organizing of events/activities for “Celebrate Bloomfield”.

Councilor Washington congratulated First Cathedral on a successful event for “Law Day”, May 3, 2015. He also commended Judge Cofield on leading the panel discussion regarding nationwide policing issues.

Councilor Rivers stated that the Council Retreat held on May 2, 2015 was very informative and instrumental in developing leadership strategies.

Councilor Seldon wished all mothers a belated Happy Mother’s Day. He also congratulated all graduates in primary, secondary and higher education of the Class of 2015.

Mayor Schulman read a letter of accommodation for Officers John Finn and Brendan Danaher for assisting public safety personnel at the University of Saint Joseph with a minor brawl altercation with several students on April 26, 2015.

Mayor Schulman also encouraged residents to come out and support all of the events for “Celebrate Bloomfield”.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:33 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session A. – Discussion Concerning Pending Claims and Litigation with the Town Council, Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager and Town Attorney.

At 8:48 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to exit Executive Session A.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:49 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Washington to adjourn the meeting.