

DRAFT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

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

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, James Wren, Director of Finance, Marc Needelman, Town Attorney, Jonathan Thiesse, Town Engineer and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Guest were: Al Taylor and Byron Lester, MDC Commissioners, John Zinzarella, Chief Financial Officer at MDC, Chris Ferrero – V.P. at Fuss & O’Neill

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Gamble announced the appointments to the Public Works Building Committee:

- Gus Walek, 35 Sharon Road
- Barry Berson, 2 Butternut Drive
- Jeff Powell, 8 Downing Circle
- Robert Ike, 90 Darby Street
- Daisy Chavis, 547 Simsbury Road
- Gail Nolan, 157 Duncaster Road
- Abraham Ford, Jr., 4 Musket Trail

Presentation by Mr. Al Taylor and Mr. Byron Lester – MDC Budget Presentation

Mr. Al Taylor is the Legislative Pro Temp Senate appointee to the MDC and Mr. Byron Lester is the Town of Bloomfield appointee to the MDC. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lester presented an update regarding financial woes with the City of Hartford payments to the MDC. The seven member

towns (Bloomfield, East Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor) connected with the MDC were noticed about the potential payment default by the City of Hartford for the upcoming budget year.

The City of Hartford financial woes have contributed to MDC strategizing contingency plans for alternative funding to cover the shortfall, if any. The City of Hartford has stated that they are current and are not behind as of yet in their contribution to the MDC. The short term plan presented to other member towns include reserving additional funds in an escrow account if needed. Due to the uncertainty with the City of Hartford, bond rating agencies have downgraded the MDC rating.

Mr. Taylor gave a brief background regarding the MDC ability to not utilize capital based borrowing to cover short term financial issues.

Mr. Lester presented information relative to the residents of Bloomfield and the additional requested amount needed to support the MDC contingency plan.

The Town of Bloomfield property ad valorem tax is \$3,067,100. This is a \$131,000 increase over 2016 budget. The City of Hartford currently owes the MDC \$10,963,200, which is 26% of total MDC ad valorem tax. The total tax collected by the MDC is \$ 41,670,300.

The maximum payment from Bloomfield is \$1,095,000, if Hartford defaults of their payments. This payment is the lower than other member towns. The first payment is \$801,550 and the second payment is \$293,450. This could impact households by \$100.00 on their sewage budget.

Deputy Mayor Schulman agree to contingency plans made by towns. However, he urged the MDC to reduce their budget and review alternative options, such as eliminating any capital expenditures proposed in their budget or bond this portion. In addition, provide a guarantee from the City of Hartford for refund of funds given. Deputy Mayor Schulman also suggested a plan to figure out potential bankruptcy with Hartford (involuntary).

Mr. Taylor also explained that management and supervisory staff will receive salary increases. Approximately 35 positions have been eliminated and 19 positions are on hold. There may be a potential refunding of 2010 bonds. The MDC currently has 473 employees and are trying to be cost conscious.

Councilor Hypolite thanked both Commissioners for addressing the public and Council regarding these issues. He inquired about the recourse if the town were obligated by statutory requirements to bail Hartford and expressed concerns with paying for future years.

Councilor Hypolite also requested clarification of the ad valorem tax based on grand list. It was noted that growth vs. consumption figures show proportional assurances that MDC can give to Bloomfield about additional financial obligations.

Mr. John Zinzarella, CFO of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) explained the ad valorem tax in their charter and how it is calculated. This tax shields the residential homeowner, while commercial owners pay more. The water and sewer charges are separate. MDC cannot

utilize unassigned fund balance support this shortfall. Whether its short term or long term solutions, rating agencies expect the MDC to have a contingency plan.

Councilor Rivers asked if there would be any restrictions for Hartford if they default. It was noted that Hartford would have no restrictions imposed.

Councilor Merritt made a suggestion to raise water rates at MDC.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about how bankruptcy would invokes the reserve and contingency plan.

Mr. Taylor explained that this a short term fix, and all other member towns agreed to a contingency plan. Mr. Zinzarella stated that the best option is the short term option at this time

Councilor Seldon inquired about possible repercussions if member towns don't agree to cooperate and make their budget payments.

Mr. Zinzarella also explained the budget process at the MDC.

Councilor Washington inquired about long term plan solutions for Hartford and other member towns.

Mr. Zinzarella outlined plans for savings with union concessions and position eliminations.

Deputy Mayor Schulman inquired about state financial assistance for the MDC and status update on the development of Brainard field. He stated his opposition to a short term solution with no consideration of a preliminary long term plan.

PRESENTATION OF CROSS TOWN GREENWAY TRAIL STUDY – FUSS & O'NEILL

Mr. Jonathan Thiesse, Town Engineer gave a brief background and overview of the greenway trail study from Day Hill Road to Tobey Road – Hartford town line.

Mr. Chris Ferrero, V.P. at Fuss & O'Neill presented an update on the process of this trail thus far. The project cost is approximately \$9 - \$12 million.

Mayor Gamble commented on the area of a trail on Goodman Street, plans with University of Hartford and development of a roadway to their campus.

Councilor Merritt admired adherence to the railroad track, stay in right of way in distance and diversion to Tyler Street or review light at Northwestern Drive

Councilor Washington inquired about the direction of Seneca Road. It was noted that a decision made because of narrow measures and building encroachment.

Councilor Hypolite inquired about the overall timeframe of this project.

Mayor Gamble is not in favor of the Tyler Street local right of way.

CITIZENS STATEMENTS & PETITIONS

1. **Donna Landerman, 6 Rundelane** extended an invitation to the Council and residents to attend the viewing of the movie “Tapped”. This movie will be shown on November 29, 2016 at Prosser Library referencing concerns about water bottling.

She also commented on issues with MDC concerns regarding discounts to Niagara. She recommended that the new Finance Director attend the public hearing at MDC to be held on November 16, 2016. The MDC utilize their own reserve. She inquired about the opening of Niagara, follow up about job creation for Bloomfield residents.

2. **Tollie Miller, 88 Kenmore Road** commented about the MDC discounts to changes in ordinances as super users such as Niagara Bottling due to the current drought status. She also commented on political affiliations and incidents based on the recent presidential election woes. There has been an increase in acts of biases in schools and neighborhoods, racial epithets within the community. Ms. Miller requested that the Council will not tolerate prejudices to town officials, police, fire and businesses.
3. **Mark Saunders, 13 Pent Road** – MDC concerns – ordinances proposed with ample water, no contract with Niagara. For profit companies should be charged more money for water from MDC. He requested that the Council support rescinding or modify the newly approved changed ordinance to give discounts to “super savers”.

Councilor Hypolite mentioned a part of the Council’s responsibility and stated that it would be an appropriate request to have Niagara to be present at a Council meeting for a status update. Council will direct the Town Manager to contact Niagara to attend a Council meeting.

4. **Kevin Gough, 5 Bear Ridge Drive**, commented on the Greenway presentation which was very good, however is requesting more input from the public. He also stated that he was disappointed that no trail has been built as of yet. The right a way issues on Tunxis Avenue, and trolley ride a way were good ideas.

Mr. Gough also commented on the MDC bond rating concerns. He inquired if these issues may decrease Bloomfield’s bond rating. He strongly stated that the MDC should rethink their business model to conservation pricing and introduce the repeal of discount ordinances with support of the Council.

Mr. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager gave a brief overview of Bloomfield's bond rating – AA2.

5. **Paula Jones, 5 Bear Ridge Drive** offered suggestions in analyzing the MDC ad valorem tax relative to the grand list vs. consumption and how tax abatement reflected in tax roles on the grand list. She urges the Council to consider action on tax abatements.
6. **Philip Dunlop, 178 Mountain Road, West Hartford, CT** expressed concerns about the state's severe drought. As a professional who studies geological science, this drought is expected to persist causing moderate economic impact. The reservoir limit threshold holds at 45%.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Administration & Education – Councilor Rivers read a brief update of the last meeting held on November 7, 2016. Topics of discussion included several ordinances involving noise, overnight parking and block parties.

Golf – On November 26, 2016 and November 27, 2016, Wintonbury Hills Golf Course will have an outing in which golfers can donate a toy or non-perishable food items for the upcoming holidays.

Public Safety – Councilor Washington will give a detailed report at the next scheduled Council meeting to be held on Monday, November 28, 2016.

Finance – The next meeting of this subcommittee will be held on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. to discuss bond refunding status update, potential financial items to impact the upcoming budget and discussion on fund balance.

Land Use & Economic Development – The next meeting of this subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss tax abatement policy.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Schulman and voted unanimously to add **Item FY 16/17-23: Presentation – Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Town of Bloomfield Summary of 401A Defined Contribution Plan and Retiree benefits for Non-Union employees.**

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to add **Item FY 16/17-24: Presentation - Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Town of Bloomfield Defined Benefit Retirement Income Plan for Non-Union employees.**

COUNCIL BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

FY 16/17-14: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Policy 120.08 – Use of Employer Provided Vehicles

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Hypolite and voted unanimously to adopt Policy 120.08 – Use of Employer Provided Vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 16/17-18: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Council Schedule for 2017

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adopt the following schedule of 2017 meetings for the Town Council, noting all meetings are at Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT unless otherwise noted. (See Attached)

FY 16/17-19: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Council Subcommittees Meeting Schedules for 2017

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to adopt the following schedules (See Attached):

Administration & Education Subcommittee, as presented at the Town Council meeting on November 14, 2016 be approved.

Community Services Subcommittee, as presented at the Town Council meeting on November 14, 2016 be approved.

Economic Development and Land Use Subcommittee, as presented at the Town Council meeting on November 14, 2016 be approved.

Finance Subcommittee, as presented at the Town Council meeting on November 14, 2016 be approved.

Golf Subcommittee, as presented at the Town Council meeting on November 14, 2016 be approved.

Public Safety Subcommittee, as presented at the Town Council meeting on November 14, 2016 be approved.

FY 16/17-20: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Amending the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC) Membership Requirement

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to amend the requirement for membership to the CEEC regarding Inland Wetland and Water Courses Commission appointments.

FY 16/17-21: Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to approve tax refunds in accordance with the memorandum dated November 4, 2016. (See Attached)

FY 16/17-22: Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Settlement of Pending Tax Appeals

This item was referred for discussion in Executive Session.

FY 16/17-23: Presentation – Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Town of Bloomfield Summary of 401A Defined Contribution Plan and Retiree benefits for Non-Union employees.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve the Town of Bloomfield Summary of 401A Defined Contribution Plan and Retiree benefits for non-union employees. (Please refer to the Town Clerk's office for a copy of said document)

FY 16/17-24: Presentation - Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Town of Bloomfield Defined Benefit Retirement Income Plan for Non-Union employees.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve the Town of Bloomfield Defined Benefit Retirement Income Plan for non-union employees. (Please refer to the Town Clerk's office for a copy of said document)

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gamble thanked all residents who voted on Election Day. She also thanked the Registrar of Voters for their professionalism and public service.

Mayor Gamble also expressed concerns about protesters at polling places, with their aggressive behaviors. Council has been and will continue to be careful to offer accurate and impartial information while campaigning.

Town Manager's Report

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

- Bond refunding sale will occur on November 15, 2016, in the amount of \$21 million.
- The town's current bond rating was reaffirmed to AA+ with Standards and Poors. This rating will be re-evaluated in two years.
- Election Day was very successful. There was an 80% voter turnout.
- The Annual Thanksgiving Service will be held on November 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.
- On November 22, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., a tree dedication will be held at Town Hall. The Town of Bloomfield was awarded a tree from the Connecticut Tree Warden Association.
- The Department of Public Works is currently working on their national accreditation status.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 24, 2016.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor DeLorenzo and Neuwirth wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Merritt commented on the differences between subjective opinions and bullying.

Councilor Washington thanked residents for the high voter turnout. He also expressed excitement and gratitude for the successful passage of both referendum questions.

Councilor Hypolite echoed statements of post-elections emotional state. He noted the importance to by actions not words. Councilor Hypolite also commented on quantifying cost assessment for sewer tax and additional cost estimates.

Councilor Rivers expressed concerns regarding the post-election emotions. He also congratulated the Bloomfield High School soccer team for receiving a \$4500 award at an Open House for the newly renovated McDonald's restaurant.

Councilor Seldon thanked all voters for supporting both referendum questions. Both projects will be overall good for the town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:37 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Rivers to enter into Executive Session A. – Discussion Concerning Labor Negotiations with the Town Council, Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager, Town Attorney and Director of Human Resources.

At 10:48 p.m., motion to exit Executive Session A.

At 10:49 p.m., motion to enter into Executive Session C. – Discussion Concerning Pending Claims and Litigation.

At 10:53 p.m., motion to exit Executive Session C and enter into regular session.

At 10:55 p.m., motion to enter into Executive Session B. – Discussion Concerning Settlement of Pending Tax Appeals.

At 11:04 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to exit Executive Session B and enter into regular session.

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to authorize the Town Attorney to enter into settlement of the following tax appeals:

1. Manning (44 Tariffville Road) v. Town of Bloomfield
2. Tayts (51 Carnoustie) v. Town of Bloomfield
3. AMCAP (McDonald's) v. Town of Bloomfield

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Washington, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2016 REFUNDS

ABRAHMS MARC C	2015MV	\$433.16
BRICO LLC	2015MV	\$21.61
BURLEIGH CHRISTOPHER	2015MV	\$176.20
CAB EAST LLC	2014MVSUP	\$139.96
CHESSARI CHRISTOPHER	2015MV	\$19.05
CHRISTIE TOURE	2015MV	\$74.37
DAIMLER TRUST	2015MV	\$388.50
DAVIS PRESTON OR GLENYSS	2015MV	\$26.64
DAVIS EARL A JR	2014MV	\$84.47
	2015MV	\$8.28
DWORKIN MICHAEL	2015MV	\$11.25
FINANCIAL SERVICE VEH TRUST	2015MV	\$667.35
HARDY ARTHUR 3RD	2015MV	\$17.13
HONDA LEASE TRUST	2015MV	\$158.02
HYUNDAI LEASE TRUST	2014MV	\$56.02
JP MORGAN CHASE	2015MV	\$537.00
KENTUCKY BLUE LEASE	2015MV	\$28.26
LEE JAMES EST W/ LEE JAMES SR EXEC	2014MV	\$32.65
	2015MV	\$185.37
LERETA LLC 8 SOUTH RIDGE DR	2015RE	\$2,313.21
MARTIN TIMOTHY	2015MV	\$21.42
NISSAN INFINITI	2015MV	\$113.77
PARKER JESSIE	2015MV	\$111.00

NOVEMBER 2016 REFUNDS

PATRY BROOKE	2015MV	\$17.87
REDHAI YOUSEF	2015MV	\$28.42
ROSOW RICHARD	2015MV	\$30.52
RUSSELL BRENDADEEN	2015MV	\$13.25
SMITH LESTER	2015MV	\$13.28
TAPPER KATHLEEN	2015MV	\$118.62
TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	2015MV	\$586.69
TUCKER RICHARD	2015MV	\$15.29
US BANK HOME MORT 14 NEWPORT DR	2015RE	\$2,490.42
VW CREDIT LEASING	2015MV	\$138.60
WILLIAMS MARKIO	2015MV	\$48.92
WONG CECIL OR CARLENE	2014MV	\$27.34
Total refunds		\$9,153.91

**2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council**

(2nd & 4th Monday of each month except where noted)

7:30 p.m., Council Chambers

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

January 9 & 23

February 13 & 27

March 13 & 27

April 10 & 24

May 8 & May 22

June 12 & 26

July 10 & 24

August 14 & 28

September 11 & September 25

October 10 (October 9, Columbus Day) & October 23

November 13 & 27

December 11 & *26 (December 25, Christmas Day)*

**2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council**

Administration & Education Subcommittee

Chair: Councilor Leon Rivers

Members: S. Schulman, W. Hypolite, P. DeLorenzo

(1st Monday of each month except where noted)

6:30 p.m., Conference Room #5

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue Bloomfield,
CT 06002

January 3 (January 2, New Year's Day)

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 5 (Sept. 4, Labor Day)

October 2

November 6

December 4

**2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council**

Committee on Committees Subcommittee

Chair: Councilor Joseph Washington

Members: S. Schulman and J. Neuwirth

(3rd Monday of each month except where noted)

6:30 p.m., Conference Room #5

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue Bloomfield,
CT 06002

January 17 (January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

February 21 (February 20, President's Day)

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

December 18

**2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council**

Community Services Subcommittee

Chair: Councilor Derrick Seldon

Members: J. Neuwirth, J. Washington, J. Merritt

(1st Tuesday quarterly except where noted)

6:00 p.m., Conference Room #5

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

March 7

June 6

September 5

December 5

**2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council**

Finance Subcommittee

Chair: Councilor Wayne Hypolite

Members: P. DeLorenzo, J. Merritt, S. Schulman, D. Seldon

(3rd Monday of each month except where noted)

5:45 p.m., Conference Room #5

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue Bloomfield,
CT 06002

January 17 (January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

February 21 (February 20, President's Day)

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

December 18

**2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council**

Golf Subcommittee

Chair: Councilor Leon Rivers

Members: J. Merritt, D. Seldon

Ad Hoc: B. Klein, J. Colman, B. Lester, A. Ford

(4th Monday of each month except where noted)

6:00 p.m., Council Chambers

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue Bloomfield,
CT 06002

January 23

February 27

March 27

April 24

May 22

June 26

July 24

August 28

September 25

October 23

November 27

December 26, (December 25 – Christmas Day)

**2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council**

Economic Development and Land Use Subcommittee

Chair: Deputy Mayor Sydney Schulman

**Members: L. Rivers, J. Washington, J. Neuwirth, W. Hypolite,
P. DeLorenzo**

(3rd Tuesday of each month except where noted)
7:00 p.m., Conference Room #5

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

2017 Meeting Schedule of the
Bloomfield Town Council
Public Safety Subcommittee

Chair: J. Washington

Members: D. Seldon, J. Merritt, J. Neuwirth, L. Rivers

(2nd Monday of each month except where noted)

6:30 p.m., Conference Room #5

Bloomfield Town Hall
800 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

January 9

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 10 (*October 9, Columbus Day*)

November 13

December 11