

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 24, 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, David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Guest were: Barbara Martin and David Martin of KMA Designs

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Gamble encouraged all residents to go out and vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Presentation by KMA Design – Wayfinding Signage

Mr. David Melesko gave a brief overview of the Wayfinding Signage program for the town. Ms. Barbara Martin, KMA Design presented Council with an update of six renditions of the town signs, with recommendation for the top two choices.

Deputy Mayor Schulman stated that the Council consensus is the choice of Option #3 of the new proposed rendering.

Councilor Merritt suggested to remove the 1835 incorporated date from all signage.

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve KMA Designs to move forward with the Wayfinding signage project.

CITIZENS STATEMENTS & PETITIONS

1. **Mary Murray, 14 Maple Avenue and Ruthanne Marchetti, 669 Bloomfield Avenue** expressed their support in renaming the School Street history center barn after the late Fannie Gabriel.
2. **Petrene Davis, 84 Englewood Avenue** expressed her disappointment in the lack of academic progress at Carmen Arace Middle School (CAMS). Ms. Davis stated that she is the mother of a 12 year old young man who is currently failing in school. She asked the Council to intervene in providing additional financial support for certified teachers at CAMS. Ms. Davis also informed the Council on current test scores and performance measures. She also stated that most students are not excelling in SPAT Math, Reading and English levels.

There was a brief discussion among Council members regarding the academic performance at Carmen Arace Middle School. Council stated that they were unaware of any issues impeding children from learning and poor test scores.

Deputy Mayor Schulman clarified that legally, Council cannot interfere in taking actions towards the Board of Education.

The Council suggested that Ms. Davis attend the next Board of Education meeting on October 25, 2016 to express her concerns and possible solutions.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Community Services – Councilor Seldon announced several programs and events sponsored by Senior Services, Social & Youth Services and Leisure Services. He also mentioned a Community Conversation with several Houses of Worship regarding race relations. This event will take place on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at The First Cathedral.

Administration & Education – Councilor Rivers endorsed the presentation made by KMA Designs regarding the floral border of main entrance signs. He also stated that the subcommittee unanimously approved the site naming of the School Street barn in honor of the late Fannie Gabriel. The committee also received an update on Affirmative Action plan from HRC consultants regarding minority representation in town. The Department of Public Works is under-utilized with jobs in the skilled craft area.

Golf – The subcommittee met this evening and had an extensive conversation regarding special events golf course rates. It was reported that the course has decreased rounds, due to competitor courses in the greater Hartford area. However, the course has maintained during dry conditions.

Public Safety – Councilor Washington reported that this subcommittee meeting was cancelled due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

Committee on Committees – Councilor Washington reported that this subcommittee meeting was cancelled due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

Finance – This subcommittee met on October 18, 2016 to discuss the allocation of savings from refinancing school renovation bonds from 2010. It was recommended to choose and accept option #2 (\$25 million) to offset debt service over the next several years. Councilor Hypolite also noted updated information regarding state reimbursement from reconciling school bonds.

Land Use & Economic Development – This subcommittee met on October 18, 2016. The committee had an extensive discussion regarding the Tax Increment Financing and the Tax Abatement policy. A draft of the policy was presented, providing a framework of categories for consideration. The committee suggested a joint meeting with the Finance subcommittee and Economic Development Committee members to discuss any modifications and/or agreements.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councilor Hypolite, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to add item FY 16/17-17: Discussion and Possible Action on Parking Ban for Commercial Vehicles in residential neighborhoods.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

FY 14/15-08: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Modification to Town Ordinance, Article II Outdoor Illumination and Sound Amplifiers, Section 3-19b

This item was referred to Administration & Education Subcommittee for further discussion and review.

FY 15/16-10: Consider and Take Action Regarding Community Parks, Gateway and Wayfinding Signage

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve the Bloomfield Community Gateway, Wayfinding and Park Signage proposal and to move forward with implementation.

Mr. David Melesko and KMA Designs were commended for their hard work and effort for the wayfinding signage project.

FY 15/16-42: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Naming of a Bloomfield Historic Site (Fannie R. Gabriel)

It was moved by Councilor DeLorenzo, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to name the building at the Wintonbury Historical Society in memory of Fannie R. Gabriel.

FY 15/16-78: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Adopting a Plan for Holding Absentee Landlords Responsible for the Conditions of their Properties

This item was referred to Administration & Education Subcommittee for further discussion and review.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 16/17-13: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Policy 141.04 - General Fund – Fund Balance

This item was referred to Finance Subcommittee for further discussion and review.

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

This item was referred to Administration & Education Subcommittee for further discussion and review.

FY 16/17-15: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Ordinance on Block Parties and Neighborhood Gatherings

This item was referred to Administration & Education Subcommittee for further discussion and review.

FY 16/17-16: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Ordinance on Fracking Waste

This item was referred to Administration & Education Subcommittee for further discussion and review.

FY 16/17-17: Discussion and Possible Action on Parking Ban for Commercial Vehicles in residential neighborhoods

This item was referred to Administration & Education Subcommittee for further discussion and review.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gamble reminded residents to donate monetary funds or food to the local Food Bank for the upcoming holidays.

Town Manager's Report

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

- Mr. Schenck, Jr. encouraged all residents to get out and vote on Election Day, November 8, 2016. As a reminder, the town wide referendum for the renovations of the Public Works building and 330 Park Avenue will be on the ballot.
- It was noted that the FY 2017/2018 budget process has begun. Department heads have received their budget guidance for capital improvements.
- As a reminder for all residents in need, please contact Social & Youth Services for screening for rental assistance, energy assistance and holiday programs.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There were no questions or concerns regarding the financial report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Seldon, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 26, 2016.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor DeLorenzo thanked David Melesko and staff for their tireless efforts on the signage project. He also expressed gratitude to the late Fannie Gabriel and her contribution to the Town of Bloomfield. In addition, Councilor DeLorenzo stated that he was distressed to hear about the academic concerns at Carmen Arace Middle School. He also reminded all residents to donate food

or Adopt-a-Family for the local Food Bank and holiday giving programs. Councilor DeLorenzo encourage residents to consider purchasing a paver for the newly renovated Filley Park and vote on Election Day.

Councilor Merritt was delighted to honor Fannie Gabriel for her contribution to Bloomfield for over 50 years. He also encouraged all to get out and vote.

Deputy Mayor Schulman cautioned every parent on the safety for children on Halloween. He mentioned an email of concern to be addressed at next Administration & Education subcommittee meeting. He also encouraged all get out and vote.

Councilor Washington expressed grave concern about issues with parents of students at CAMS. He stated that honoring Fannie Gabriel is a wonderful acknowledgement, however he encouraged Council to remember honoring Richard Days as well. Councilor Washington suggested the utilization of mentoring program for each department to increase growth and advance careers.

Councilor Hypolite echoed statements of honoring Fannie Gabriel. He also commented on the school test scores and performance as a surprise to Council contradictory to reports from the Board of Education. Councilor Hypolite encouraged parents and members of the Board to listen to one another and have dialogue for continued improvements.

Councilor Rivers expressed kudos of support in naming the School Street barn facility for Fannie Gabriel. He also asked the Board of Education to provide information of concerns to CAMS parent. Councilor Rivers mentioned that the golf course continues to support the 15 youth enrolled in the juniors program.

Councilor Seldon expressed concerns about minority hiring relative not meeting town goals. He requested clarification on the status of minority contractors for the Center Apartments. In addition, he commented that Bloomfield Public schools are moving forward in the right direction, however the need for improvement is always a factor.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.