

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2015 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

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

Absent was: Councilor Patrick DeLorenzo

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Schulman requested a moment of silence for former Hartford Fire Chief John B. Stewart. Chief Stewart previously resided in Bloomfield for many years and it is where he raised his family. He was an extraordinary individual who fought against racial injustices and was also remembered as the first African American Fire Chief in New England.

Mayor Schulman mentioned that a memorial service is being planned for the late Fannie Gabriel. Mrs. Gabriel was involved in many organizations, boards and commissions with the town.

Mayor Schulman congratulated Councilor Merritt on 50 years of marriage to his wife Mrs. Beverly Merritt.

Presentation by Proclamation to Duncaster

Councilor Rivers presented a proclamation to Duncaster Retirement Community for supporting the various programs within town through their Community Outreach Committee. The goal of the Community Outreach Committee is to actively participate in Bloomfield's ongoing health and vibrancy by supporting not-for-profit organizations that reside within, or that provide social services to Bloomfield residents.

Presentation of Recognition Certificate to Mr. Jim Lehman

Councilor Rivers presented a recognition certificate to Mr. Jim Lehman. Mr. Lehman spearheaded the Community Outreach program to support Bloomfield Public Schools in developing a middle school golf team. Duncaster's Community Outreach Committee granted a total of \$5,700 to this program.

Presentation of Proclamation to Olsen Construction

Councilor Rivers also presented a proclamation to Olsen Construction for their commitment in the development of the middle school golf program. Olsen Construction donated \$1,500 in scholarships for this program.

Presentation of the Beautification Awards, Bloomfield Beautification Committee, Jane Low

Mrs. Jane Low, Chair of the Beautification Committee presented the 26th Annual Beautification Awards to the following individuals:

- Rehoboth Church of God, Rev. Suzzette Debeatham-Brown
- Home Depot – Ernest Grab, Store Manager and Diane Gault, Garden Specialist
- Bloomfield Leisure Services – Harvey Pannell, Jr.
- Birken Manufacturing, 3 Old Windsor Road
- Glenwood Green Homeowners Association, 319 Oliver Way
- Bloomfield Animal Hospital, 77 Old Windsor Road
- Lincoln & Faye Thomas, 1 Alfred Circle
- Stefan Julian, 26 Florence Drive
- Steven & Margo Marenakos, 439 Simsbury Road
- George Clinton, III, 21 Walt's Hill
- Khadijah Muta-ali & Sahkeena Lynch, 193 Rockwell Avenue

CITIZEN STATEMENTS & PETITIONS

1. **Robert Berman, 8 Hiram Lane**, expressed disappointment and concern regarding the placement of election signs in prohibited places around town. He urged Council to review the policies and procedures regarding this issue.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Community Services- Councilor Seldon gave a detailed report of upcoming activities and events for Social & Youth Services, Senior Services and Leisure Services. He also thanked Mrs. Jane Low, Chair of the Beautification Committee for her dedication and hard work to ensure that the "bloom" in Bloomfield remains vibrant.

Administration & Education – The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Golf – Councilor Rivers gave a brief overview of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course. The course is doing exceptionally well financially. There is approximately \$488,000 in operating cash, \$61,000 of merchandise in the golf pro-shop and overall the course is \$86,000 ahead of budget in the last year.

Public Safety - Councilor Washington read a detailed report from the last meeting held on October 13, 2015.

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

Finance – Councilor Hypolite stated that this subcommittee will meet in November to discuss employee/pension benefits, liabilities and insurance with actuarial consultants.

Land Use & Economic Development – Deputy Mayor Gamble reported that a combined meeting of this subcommittee and Administration/Education subcommittee was held on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor Gamble deferred this report for discussion under Council business.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Schulman introduced a public hearing to seek public input concerning the proposed sale of town-owned land located at 97 Granby Street.

The public hearing opened at 7:35 p.m.

There was no public comment.

The public hearing closed at 7:36 p.m.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

FY 13/14-12: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Sale of 97 Granby Street

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gamble and voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to move forward in preparing the Request for Proposals and advertise the availability of this property.

FY 15/16-12: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding 460 Tunxis Avenue (Farmington River Park)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and to accept the proposal submitted by CREC regarding the Farmington River Park located at 460 Tunxis Avenue.

The motioner and seconder of the original motion agreed to an amendment in accepting the proposal by CREC regarding the Farmington River Park located at 460 Tunxis Avenue *“subject to approval and review by the Town Attorney, review with the appropriate Council subcommittees as well as review of final agreement with the Bloomfield Town Council.”*

Councilor Merritt stated that he was very delighted with the entire project.

Councilor Hypolite commented about more details and specifics on the lease agreement, overall program usage and value to the town. He would also like to ensure that this project is an equal benefit to all parties involved.

FY 15/16-19: Discussion Concerning Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline Proposed Gas Project

Mayor Schulman stated that a letter of correspondence was sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the deadline date of response October 16, 2015. There has been no reply as of yet, only receipt confirmation was received.

Mr. Schenck, Jr., stated that town representatives, Jonathan Thiesse, Town Engineer and Al Taylor met with MDC on October 20, 2015. MDC has not officially stated that they are not in support of this project. They have agreed to look at alternatives. The town has obtained better mapping, however no definite route has been identified.

Councilor Hypolite expressed concerns for environmental perspectives involving the routing path and water safety.

Councilor Washington stated concerns about economics of customers in Bloomfield and how CNG utilizes the current pipeline.

Councilor Rivers inquired about how long should the town wait for FERC to respond.

Mayor Schulman strongly suggested a meeting with CNG to discuss details concerning the pipeline.

Councilor Merritt stated that it is important to have access to gas services as another affordable choice of energy.

Deputy Mayor Gamble expressed resident concerns about possible blasting near homes, remediation issues and sole responsibility for repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 15/16-20: Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously that tax refunds (per attached list) be approved.

OCTOBER 2015 REFUNDS

ADVANCED GAS	2014MV	\$47.18
BAKER RACHEL	2014MV	\$21.99
BANC OF AMERICA LEASING	2014PP	\$32,581.78
BONCHI LLC	2014MV	\$101.61
BONNEY B LLC	2014MV	\$206.92
CALEF ROBERT OR MARTHA	2013MV	\$507.00
CAMPBELL JOAN OR SHEVONNE	2014MV	\$52.87
CHASE AUTO FINANCE	2013MV	\$144.45
	2014MV	\$560.53
CICERO ANTHONY JR	2014MV	\$25.87
COMRIE ELVIS	2014MV	\$55.42
CREATIVE TRANSPORTATION	2014MV	\$174.03
FINANCIAL SER VEH	2014MV	\$613.00
FRANCIS MERVA	2014MV	\$58.14
FRANKLIN RICHARD	2014MV	\$388.75
	2013MV	\$180.13
GIBSON BOBBY JR	2013MV	\$46.00
HILL MARY	2014MV	\$20.09
HILL ROBERT	2014MV	\$33.51
HONDA LEASE TRUST	2014MV	\$283.37
JILAMI AND CHAIKLIN MICHAEL	2014MV	\$187.16
JOHNSON CLAUDE & FRANCES	2013RE	\$111.32
JONES EMMANUEL	2014MV	\$8.93
LEPPERT NUTMEG	2014MV	\$20.00

MEEHAN SEAN	2014MV	\$77.59
MIDDLETON ELMORE & EDNA	2014MV	\$37.24
NISSAN INFINITI	2014MV	\$219.26
PETERSON DL TRUST	2014MV	\$70.65
PORISS EMILY	2014MV	\$109.70
ROBINSON SUSAN	2014MV	\$14.74
RUSSELL BRENDADEEN	2013MV	\$19.42
SOLYCO	2014MV	\$348.07
TAVERAS LUIS E	2013MV	\$766.71
TAYLOR JOHN OR ELLEN	2014MV	\$92.56
THOMPSON NOWEL & ROXIE	2013RE	\$16.81
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT	2014MV	\$802.08
TOTAL REFUNDS		\$39,004.88

FY 15/16-21: Consider and Take Action Regarding Appointment to the Metropolitan District Commission

It was moved by Councilor Washington, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Byron Lester, 15 Spice Bush Lane to the Metropolitan District Commission.

REPORT FROM MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Mayor's Report

- On October 14, 2015 at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford, CT, the Town of Bloomfield will be honored to receive the Gold Star energy award by Eversource. The town is one of five community in the state focused energy conservation with the Home Energy and Business Solutions programs.
- Also on October 14, 2015, Bloomfield High School 21 students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- On October 15, 2015, a Solar Array ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at Pepperidge Farm.
- On October 17, 2015, Auer Farm held their Annual Fall Festival.
- Also on October 17, 2015, the Bloomfield Music Makers held their concert at Carmen Arace Middle School.
- On October 19, 2015, there was a Bloomfield Business Association meeting.
- On October 22, 2015, Senior Services sponsored a Greeter's Luncheon Reception at Town Hall.
- On October 24, 2015, Deputy Mayor Gamble assisted with a fundraiser for the West Indian Foundation.
- On October 25, 2015, Mayor Schulman, Councilors Rivers and Washington attended Rehoboth Church of God 50th Anniversary service.
- On October 29, 2015, Mayor Schulman mentioned that the CCJEF vs. Rell case will on to trial in January 2016. The Town of Bloomfield is a participating town advocating for full funding for school system.

- Also on October 29, 2015, Prosser Library will host a One Day Book discussion about race in comparison to Authority vs. Power.
- On October 30, 2015, Laurel Elementary School held their Annual Career Day.
- On October 31, 2015, Rehoboth Church of God will host their 50th Anniversary Gala at the CT Convention Center.
- On November 5, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Bloomfield High School will have their ribbon cutting ceremony for the new synthetic athletic sports field.

Town Manager's Report

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

- On October 20, 2015, Mr. Schenck, Jr. attended the CCM Convention. Mr. Schenck, Jr. noted several areas of interest for the town such as the re-envisioning of public libraries and their new technology driven initiatives.
- Town road work is underway by the Public Works department. There are several streets on the re-pavement schedule such as: Arlington, Victory, Talcottview, Cliffmount and Melbourne.
- On October 19, 2015 at the Bloomfield Business Association meeting, merchants have met with the new owner of Wintonbury Mall. Several issues of concern include: parking lot, sufficient lighting and roof repairs.
- On November 3, 2015, town department heads are preparing budget guidance for Capital Improvement projects due on December 4, 2015 as well as operating budget requests due in early January 2016.
- Mr. Schenck, Jr. encouraged all town residents to go out and vote on Election Day, November 3, 2015.
- On November 9, 2015 at 6:15 p.m., an Oath of Office ceremony will be held for all newly elected town officials in Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 13, 2015.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Neuwirth and Hypolite urged residents to vote on November 3, 2015.

Deputy Mayor Gamble encouraged residents to donate to the Bloomfield Food Bank.

Councilor Washington read a statement from a resident concerning street paving. He also congratulated a few local businesses on their efforts to promote Affirmative Action initiatives.

Councilor Rivers attended and enjoyed many of the local events in the community over the past few weeks.

Councilor Seldon inquired about street paving on Pheasant Lane, in which MDC didn't complete remediation work after repairs. He also encouraged residents to support the One Book, One Race event on October 29, 2015 sponsored by Prosser Library.

Mayor Schulman commented on a structure on the train tracks in the center of town. He has requested town officials to take action in the next several weeks for possible removal or relocation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.