There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2022 via Zoom Webinar virtual meeting platform.

Present were: Mayor Danielle Wong, Deputy Mayor Gregory C. Davis, Councilors Joseph Merritt, Kenneth McClary, Rickford Kirton, Shamar Mahon, Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Anthony C. Harrington and C.F. Politis

Also present were: Stanley D. Hawthorne, Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Community Building Leadership Team:

- Marguerite Phillips, Town Clerk
- Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department
- Camilla Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services
- Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services
- Daniel Carter, Public Works Director
- Rosa Matias, Human Resources Director
- Jennifer Valentino-Rodriguez, Director of Building and Land Use
- Keri Rowley, Finance Director

Guest were: Tom Romagnoli, Construction Manager, Downes Construction and Mark Weisman, Chair of the Library Building Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS**

**Update from the Library Building Committee, Mark Weisman, Chair**

Mr. Mark Weisman, Chair of the Library Building Committee presented the latest update on the library construction project.

He reported that the Building Committee is at the tail end of the schematic design phase. This is the first of three design phases prior to building and construction.

The Town signed the contact with the State of Connecticut for the $1 million dollar grant. In addition, the Building Committee selected owner project representative, Colliers Project Leadership. They will mainly assist with moving operations and furniture procurement.
They have also established a temporary swing space for the delivery of Library Services during the construction period.

Mr. Weisman noted that this process has taken longer than expected. The Library Building Committee is at a Crossroads with the project budget. Mr. Weisman stated that this project is $5.5 million dollars over budget.

The committee discussed cost reductions that did not compromise functionality of programming and aesthetics. A lot of time and effort was spent by our professional team to develop suggestions, which left a deficit of approximately $1.5 million over the budget. The final suggestion was brought forward to reduce the square footage of Prosser Library.

He explained in detail the gross area analysis and presented the existing gross area, conceptual and schematic design from budget referendum and current recommendations. The architect revised floor plans, which is being evaluating by staff. It is estimated after these suggestions were made; the project is $350,000 over budget based on contingencies. The Library Building Committee is seeking additional funding, which could go over referendum amount. In addition, the committee is fighting against time with supply and demand issues as well as escalation in the marketplace.

Discussion

There was an ensued discussion regarding the Library Building project budget overage, square footage and space allocation concerns, potential impacts on programming and available funding sources.

Town Attorney Marc Needelman issued an opinion about using funds above bond referendum amount approved by Bloomfield voters in November 2021. The proposed application for additional funds through the Community Investment Fund would be considered as a supplemental appropriation. The Town is not prohibited from appropriating additional funds to the project.

The consensus of the Council is to review and research all funding sources available. It was also suggested to explore the process of adding more square footage to Prosser Library.

CITIZENS’ STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

1. **Carl Delmolino, 25 Beaudry Lane** advocated for raising the Pride Flag effective Wednesday, June 15th or Thursday, June 16th. He also expressed his excitement for also raising the Juneteenth Flag, to support all groups.

2. **Joan Twiggs, 11 Lane Beaufort Blvd**, thanked the Council for recognizing Pride Month with a visual representation. She is also in support of the Library project, to meet the current and future needs of the Bloomfield community.

3. **Aaron Romano, 55 Woodland Avenue** commented on the proposed amendments to the Noise Ordinance relative to Agri-Tourism. He noted the concerns of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. He is in support of the proposed amendments for Agri-Tourism to take place.
4. **Jennifer Marshall-Nealy, 57 Fairmount Drive** expressed her support of raising the Pride and Juneteenth flags. She also congratulated Councilor McClary on a successful Fishing Derby, held on Saturday, June 11, 2022. It was an amazing event and great for the youth of Bloomfield.

5. **Darrell Goodwin, 16 Grant Hill Road** encouraged the Council to make a permanent approval the raising of the Pride and Juneteenth flags every year in June.

6. **Clare Kindall, 27 High Hill Road** commented on the proposed amendments to the Noise Ordinance. She recommended inclusion with the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and its impact on neighborhoods selecting to host Agri-Tourism events. She noted concerns with noise decibel levels, non-farm related activities and entertainment.

7. **Kamera Harrison & Donna Curry, 22 Wedgewood Drive** – commented on living conditions at Wedgewood Apartments.

8. **Joe Hermann, CT Tenants Union** – commented on the purpose of a Tenant’s Union and their support of current tenant issues at Wedgewood Apartments; that have not been resolved by Property Management. Mr. Hermann also commented on the use of ARPA dollars to support local tenant issues seeking security deposits or rental assistance.

9. **Solange Jefferson, 18 Wedgewood Drive** – commented on her living conditions at Wedgewood Apartments and possible pending eviction notice, no option for lease renewal.

   Mayor Wong and Mr. Hawthorne will provide a status update on Wedgewood Apartments with the West Hartford Bloomfield Health District, Social & Youth Services and Building.

10. **Tabitha Tardette, 8G Wedgewood Drive** – stated that she received a Notice to Quit to vacate her unit. Her stated that her unit has black mold, faulty wire work, gas leak in her unit.

**Discussion**

Councilor Kirton cautioned the Council on trying to deliver expectations on what to do at Wedgewood Apartments.

Mr. Hawthorne is committed to provide updates to the Town Council; staff meet regularly with the Health District included. There are some complicated issues and limits on government not within in the Town’s jurisdiction and Code of Ordinances.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown stated that there are only three open cases from Wedgewood Apartments. If there are any additional complaints, please contact Health Director Aimee Krauss, 860-561-7908.

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES**

Administration & Education – Mayor Wong gave a brief report of the last meeting held on June 6, 2022. Topics discussed were: Project Labor Agreement with the Trades Union, Town’s Website Redesign, Community
Investment Fund, Bloomfield Rehabilitation Program, Eminent Domain, Small Business Program and the Library Building Committee status report.

Public Safety – Deputy Mayor Davis gave a brief report of the last meeting held on June 13, 2022. Topics

Committee on Committees – Councilor DeBeatham-Brown noted that the Town Clerk is still in receipt of interest forms from both Town Committees. The Committee will schedule a meeting in the near future.

Finance – Councilor McClary encouraged all to come out and support the Alliance for Bloomfield’s Children (ABC) Community Forum on the American Rescue Plan Act funds. He noted that the next subcommittee meeting would be held on June 20, 2022.

Land Use & Economic Development - The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled to be held on June 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Golf Ad-Hoc Committee – Councilor Kirton gave a brief report of the last meeting held on June 8, 2022. Topics discussed were: General Course Update, Irrigation Update, FY 2022/2023 Budget, Discussion of Overflow Parking. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled to be held on July 13, 2022.

Community Services – Councilor Harrington gave a brief overview of the last meeting held to discuss the feasibility of the Summer Bridge Program. Councilor Harrington was successful to secure all funding to administer this program.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

FY 2022-22: Consider and Take Action Regarding Policy No. 401.02 – Flag Flying and Lowering

In light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling concerning flag raisings, Town Attorney Marc Needelman gave a brief overview of the revised Flag Flying and Lowering policy. In addition to some edits, Attorney Needelman also raised an issue concerning the votes required to approve a particular flag raising. As presently worded, it is possible that only three votes will be necessary for approval (five Councilors present – a quorum) and a majority (3) approves.

Discussion

Deputy Mayor Davis commented on the need to have a greater number than five Councilors to approve.

Attorney Needelman addressed the legalities this policy and noted that groups requested to fly a flag must purchase and provide to the Town. He reminded Council that this is a policy decision and recommended not to be an automatic decision to raise or lower the flag. A formal inquiry is suggested to be submitted to maintain level of authorization by the Council.

Councilor Kirton asked for clarification by the Town Attorney, number of affirmative votes, recommended 5, majority of the Council decides how many affirmative votes is needed. He also noted that there is no harm in making this an annual occurrence.
Councilor DeBeatham-Brown commented on policy language in Section C., suggested a quorum of the Council, no less than 5. She also suggested continuing with 7 days and it should be an annual event.

Mayor Wong stated that this policy needs further review in identifying responsibility and fiscal cost.

Councilor Mahon recommended at least 2/3 votes, flag display and determine how much time, equitable recommendation. He suggested submitting the form annually from interested groups or organizations.

It was moved by Councilor McClary, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to refer this agenda item to the Administration & Education Subcommittee.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2022-74: Consider and Take Action Regarding Summer Recess

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously to cancel the regularly scheduled Town Council meetings of July 25, 2022 and August 22, 2022.

It was a consensus of the Council to schedule a Special Meeting to handle Council business, if needed on those dates.

FY 2022-75: Consider and Take Action in Regard to Displaying the Progressive Pride Flag (as per Policy 401.02)

It was moved by Councilor Kirton, seconded by Councilor McClary and voted unanimously to direct Town staff to display the Progressive Pride Flag for seven days.

FY 2022-76: Consider and Take Action in Regard to Displaying the Juneteenth Flag (as per Policy 401.02)

It was moved by Councilor Harrington, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to direct Town staff to display the Juneteenth Flag for seven days.

The original motion included the word “purchase” which was removed to remain consistent with policy.

FY 2022-77: Consider and Take Action Regarding Proposed Amendments to Section 605 – Other Departments, Offices and Agencies of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinances

Mr. Stanley D. Hawthorne, Town Manager gave a brief overview of proposed amendments to Section 605 – Other Departments, Offices and Agencies of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinances. The Town Council approved the re-organization and alignment of the Town Organization. There are four departments that were not included in the ordinance that will be codified in the Town Charter, Human Resources, Building and Land Use, Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services, Senior Services and Social & Youth Services.
It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to set a public hearing date on June 27, 2022 regarding amendments to Section 605 – Other Departments, Offices and Agencies of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinances.

**FY 2022-78: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution – Tax Suspense List**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Bloomfield Town Council hereby authorizes transfers in the amount of $22,423.99 to the Suspense Tax Book for the years listed (2008-2020). This action is being taken upon the recommendation of the Tax Collector and as shown in a report dated June 7, 2022.

**FY 2022-79: Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds**

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to approve the tax refunds (per the attached list) be approved in accordance with the memorandum dated June 7, 2022.

**FY 2022-80: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Amendment to the Noise Ordinance, Section 12 ½ .3(d) (5)**

Councilor Mahon gave a brief overview of the proposed Amendments to the Noise Ordinance, Section 12 ½ .3(d) (5). He noted that it is important to provide the Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) with clarity and direction with more regulations around Agri-Tourism. Councilor Mahon noted some confusion in the Bloomfield Code of Ordinances and regulations when attempted to draft.

Deputy Mayor Davis expressed support of the context, however noted concerns with proposed amendments from the existing noise ordinance, to include Agri-Tourism activities, which is an exemption for entertainment from the current noise ordinance.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed concerns about quality of life issues. She recommended that this item go to committee for further discussion.

Councilor McClary noted that the Town Plan and Zoning (TPZ) Commission would allow Agri-Tourism zones. He requested clarification of process and role with TPZ & Town Council.

Ms. Jennifer Valentino-Rodriguez, Director of Building and Land Use stated that on June 23, 2022 TPZ meeting, there is a public hearing scheduled to further discuss his agenda item. She noted that no decision has yet to be made. The major concerns expressed involved noise levels and hours of operation.
It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to refer this item to the Public Safety Subcommittee.

**FY 2022-81: Consider and Take Action Concerning Pending Tax Appeals**

This agenda item was referred for discussion in Executive Session.

**REPORT FROM MAYOR**

Mayor Wong congratulated Councilor McClary on the successful Fishing Derby. She also reminded all of the upcoming Juneteenth events weekend celebration, June 18-19, 2022.

Mayor Wong noted that the Town would do its due diligence in assisting tenants residing at Wedgewood Apartments.

She congratulated Councilor Harrington on receiving approval for the Summer Bridge Program.

Mayor Wong commented on her attendance with press and Senator Chris Murphy regarding solar farm panels going green and renewable energy.

**REPORT FROM TOWN MANAGER**

Mr. Stanley D. Hawthorne, Town Manager gave an overview of his bi-weekly report, referring to the bi-weekly report sent to the Council from June 11, 2022 (see attached). He noted that these reports are posted on the town website for public review under the Town Manager’s webpage.


He also gave a brief status update and overview of the importance of Council to make informed decisions regarding the CIF applications for funding of capital improvement projects, progression with establishing a Development Authority to be instrumental in redevelopment of the Town Center and overall communication of town issues to the community at large, website upgrades and open transparency.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor Kirton and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 23, 2022.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Mahon thanked all who expressed support of the proposed amendments to the Noise Ordinance. He congratulated Councilor McClary on the Fishing Derby event.
Councilor Kirton thanked all residents that came out to inform Council of the living conditions at Wedgewood Apartments.

Councilor Kirton also congratulated all 2022 Bloomfield High School graduates and wished them the best in their future endeavors.

Councilor Harrington congratulated Councilor McClary and Dave Melesko on a successful Fishing Derby. He also congratulated all 2022 Bloomfield High School graduates.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown congratulated all 2022 Bloomfield High School graduates. She also reminded all and encouraged all to come out and support the upcoming Juneteenth Weekend Celebration, June 18 – 19, 2022 at the Blue Hill Fire Department.

Councilor McClary expressed his thanks of Council for passing action on flag raising for Pride Month and Juneteenth. He thanked Mark Weisman, Chair of the Library Building Committee for his leadership with this library project. He noted that it is not easy to dealing with a budget shortfall. Councilor McClary encouraged tenants residing at Wedgewood Apartments to continue their advocacy for better living conditions. He referenced the need for more affordable housing. Councilor McClary thanked all who participated and contributed to the success of the Fishing Derby.

Councilor Merritt commented on the proposed amendments to the Noise Ordinance – Agri-Tourism. He also noted that it important to accept and support all groups in the community. Councilor Merritt also expressed excitement about the newly formed Trails Committee.

Deputy Mayor Davis attended the Bloomfield High School graduation earlier today, June 11th. He thanked and commended the Council on their commitment and dedication to the Bloomfield community. Deputy Mayor Davis stated that it is incumbent upon the Town to respond to health and safety issues as they relate to mold water intrusion at Wedgewood Apartments. Some of these actions may be retaliatory or discriminatory actions, suggesting consultation with legal counsel.

Deputy Mayor Davis also has hopes for continuing to fight, support and advocate for the library project. He asked the Library Building Committee and the Town to do all we can do to fund the shortfall with this project. He also clarified the request for a Council float in the Juneteenth Celebration weekend festivities. Councilors are prepared to walk the length of the route.

Mayor Wong encouraged all to bring the same energy to the Juneteenth event as the Fishing Derby. She is hopeful that residents will be able to attend and participate.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:25 p.m., it was moved Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown 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, Town Attorney and Joseph Seymour.
REGULAR SESSION

At 11:20 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Davis, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously that the Town Attorney be authorized to enter into a Stipulated Judgement in the pending tax appeal of Bloomfield 600 Assoc., L.P. vs. Town of Bloomfield, concerning the real property located at 600 & 673 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002, for a Fair Market Value of $19,800,000.00, and an Appraised Value of $13,860,000.

At 11:21 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Davis, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously that the Town Attorney be authorized to enter into a Stipulated Judgement in the pending tax appeal of CIL Realty, Inc. vs. Town of Bloomfield, concerning the real property located at 1095 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002 as follows:

- For the 2017 and 2018 Grand Lists, the property shall remain on the Taxable Grant Lists, as established. All taxes, interest and penalties (if any) shall be immediately due.

- For the 2019, 2020, 2021 Grand Lists, the property shall be deemed tax-exempt pursuant to C.G.S. § 12-81(7)(B). By agreement, the town shall refund to the owner of the sum of $100,000.00 representing a portion of the taxes previously paid.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Merritt to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 p.m.
June 2022 Tax Refunds

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<tr>
<th>Customer Name</th>
<th>List Number</th>
<th>Amount refunded</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Beck Olanders</td>
<td>2020 MS</td>
<td>$1,218.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ccap Auto Lease</td>
<td>2020 MV</td>
<td>$720.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chang Mary</td>
<td>2020 MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchants Automotive Group INC</td>
<td>2020 MS</td>
<td>$890.59</td>
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$4,506.49