FINAL
BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022 via hybrid with the Zoom Webinar virtual meeting platform and in-person location at the Human Services Facility – 330 Park Avenue.

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

Also present were: (In-Person) Stanley D. Hawthorne, Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, Keri Rowley, Finance Director, Marguerite Phillips, Town Clerk, Elizabeth Lane, Library Services Director, David Melesko, Leisure Services Director, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Senior Services Director, Scott Sharlow, IT Director, Sharon Gentles-Harris, Deputy Finance Director, Nancy Haynes, Risk and Purchasing Manager, Sharon Dau, Sr. Administrative Assistant, BPD, Daniel Carter, Public Works Director and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Virtual Attendance (Zoom): Jonathan Thiesse, Town Engineer, Camilla Hillian, Social & Youth Services Director, Jennifer Valentino-Rodriguez, Planning and Economic Development Director, Bob Platosz, Assistant IT Director

Guest were: Bloomfield Board of Education, Donald Harris, Chair of the Board of Education, Dr. James Thompson, Superintendent, William Guzman, Chief Operating Officer, Elisa Pierce, Grants Manager

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. The Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. was held prior to the start time of the Special Meeting of the Town Council.

Consider and Take Action regarding the Adoption of the Town of Bloomfield FY 2023 Budget and set the mill rate for Fiscal Year 2023

It was moved by Councilor McClary, seconded by Councilor Harrington to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the fiscal year 2023 General Fund Budget for the Town of Bloomfield CT., dated May 2nd, 2022 as itemized by department, board, committee, commission or other purpose and providing for total expenditures in the amount of $104,293,623 with $48,841,803 for the Board of Education, $6,807,797 for debt retirement and $48,644,023 for other departments, boards, committees, commissions, and other purposes of the Town of Bloomfield, be and hereby is adopted, pursuant to Section 904 of the Town Charter.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the fiscal year 2023 tax levy of the Town of Bloomfield shall be established in the amount of $74,120,677 and the tax rates upon the grand list of October 1, 2021 shall be at $34.53 per $1,000 of taxable value for all real and personal properties (excluding motor vehicles) and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in accordance with File No. 594, substitute for House Bill No. 5037, the tax rate shall be $32.46 per $1,000 for motor vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the fiscal year 2023 tax levy of the Town of Bloomfield shall be established

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2027 be and hereby is adopted pursuant to Section 903 and 904 of the Town Charter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Proposed Management Classification/Pay Schedule effective July 1, 2022 and inclusive of all grade, position, and salary ranges be and hereby is adopted

VOTE: AYE: D. Wong, G. Davis, S. DeBeatham-Brown, R. Kirton, K. McClary, A. Harrington, S. Mahon
NAY: C.F. Politis, J. Merritt
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passes 7-2-0.

Discussion

Councilor Kirton thanked the Town Manager and residents on the adoption of the FY 2023 Town Budget. He expressed his support of this reasonable budget. However, Councilor Kirton is concerned about the $7.3-$8.0 million dollars in the current budget that will not be there next budget cycle. How to lower the mill that is sustainable? There is a need to increase the Grand List and increase new businesses in Town to generate more tax revenue. How to reduce cost across the board? He noted that it important for local governments to be efficient and effective.

Councilor Kirton commented on the need for more affordable housing. The main issue is the high property taxes on reasonably priced homes.

Councilor Mahon thanked the neighbors for coming out to represent their respective voices. He also thanked the Town Administration and Councilors for the deliberation. Councilor Mahon noted that he is happy to provide some relief to residents by reducing the mill rate. He commented on the ongoing Community Investment Projects and funding allocations.
Councilor Merritt mentioned that he voted against the budget, due to his concerns relative to the reduction of the Board of Education requested allocation amount. This reduction may affect the current staffing and teachers. The Council added 8 new positions, not taking any away. Councilor Merritt also noted that there is not much Economic Development in Town. The major issue is spending too much and the burden will shift to homeowners in the future.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown commented on a very thoughtful budget that provided relief and services to the residents. She thanked the Town Manager and leadership team for a very transparent budget process. She also thanked her Council colleagues for a job well done in service of Bloomfield residents.

Deputy Mayor Davis expressed his gratitude to the Town Manager and Senior Staff for their work on the FY 2023 Budget. He also noted the unanimous support of the Board of Education and is in support of the allocation that was allotted.

Councilor McClary thanked the Town Manager, staff and colleagues. He noted that this budget shined light on the needs and priorities of the community. Councilor McClary briefly spoke about the budget process and goals to balance and minimize the financial impact.

Councilor Harrington thanked the Town Manager and staff as well as his pride for the entire Council.

Mayor Wong thanked the Town Manager and his staff as well for an excellent FY 2023 Budget presentation. This budget is great for today’s circumstances, it is a progressive budget with well needed service enhancements for the residents.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded Councilor McClary and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.