



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Remote Meeting via Zoom

Call to Order: Council President W. Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos, William Alexopoulos, Richard Brewer, Natacha Clerger, Ryan Egan, Jesse Gordon, Katrina Huff-Larmond, Kevin O'Connell.

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Vice President Brewer.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held in remembrance of retired Randolph Firefighter/EMT Thomas Cotter who passed away on January 14, 2023. Firefighter Cotter became a Member of the Randolph Fire Department on June 27, 1965. Tom served the community for over 24 years.

Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes of Town Council Meeting November 21, 2022
2. Minutes of Town Council Meeting December 5, 2022
3. Minutes of Town Council Meeting December 8, 2022
4. Minutes of Town Council Meeting January 9, 2023

Motion to approve the Minutes of Town Council Meetings on November 21, 2022, December 5, 2022, December 8, 2022 and January 9, 2023 made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Burgess)

Motion passes.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM: Special Permit Application and Site Plan and Design Review for a Proposed Development located at 16 Fencourt Avenue

Council President Alexopoulos: Since the Public Hearing on this matter was opened on November 7, 2022, we received three letters from the applicant requesting a continuance of the Public Hearing. The first letter received on November 3, 2022 requested a continuance of the Public Hearing until December 5, 2022 or to such later meeting as the Council may elect. The Public Hearing was continued to December 5, 2022. The second letter received on December 5, 2022 requested a continuance of the public hearing to the latest agenda in January, 2023 or to such later meeting as the Council may elect. The Public Hearing was continued to January 23, 2023. The third letter received on January 18, 2023 requested a continuance of the public hearing until the latest agenda in March or to such other meeting as the Council may elect.

Council Clerk read the correspondence from the applicant containing these requests.

Councillor Huff-Larmond requested an update on what information was requested from the Department of Public Works and Fire Department so there is some understanding regarding what is going on. Council President Alexopoulos stated we can send them a letter asking how they're making out and get a status update.

Council President Alexopoulos continued the Public Hearing on this matter to April 3, 2023 at 6:15 PM.

2. 6:15 PM: Council Order 2022-057: Amendment of Section 9-4 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning the Community Preservation Committee

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing on this matter. The Town Council Clerk read the legal notice that was published in the Patriot Ledger on January 18, 2023.

Councillor Gordon gave a brief description regarding the purpose of this Council Order and explained how it would function.

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Mr. Joe Burke, of Hills Street: Can you explain what section 9-4 is? Town Manager Howard provided a brief explanation of each subsection of Section 9-4 of the General Ordinance of the Town of Randolph Concerning the Community Preservation Committee. Discussion was held regarding how the administrative process would work to enforce the new ordinance amendment.

Council President Alexopoulos closed the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Who's responsibility is it to make these changes? I think it's important that we inform our residents about grants. How do we make sure we are educating the public in the most effective way on how grants function? Is each department taking care of their own grants because we don't have a central location for this responsibility? Town Manager Howard: It varies across the board and depends on the nature of the grant. Some are competitive and some you automatically receive the grant if you fill out the necessary paperwork. In a perfect world, yes having someone who can work with the various departments would be helpful. Applying for the grant is one thing, and then managing the grant is another.

Councillor O'Connell: Is it possible to have someone from CPC here to review what we're throwing on them to see if it's okay? Councillor Gordon: Councillor Egan is the Appointee to the CPC and maybe can answer your questions. Councillor Egan: So you're asking for the differences between what's being done currently and what's not? Town Manager Howard: Based on the conversations had with Town staff, there is no issue with this Zoning Ordinance Amendment. This should not be a significant new administrative burden. A lot of the information being requested is also available currently on the website.

Motion made by Councillor Huff-Larmond to approve Council Order 2022-057 as presented, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Burgess)

Motion Passes.

Public Comments:

Joe Burke, Hills Streets: Thank you for having RCTV present at the St. Bernadette's celebration. On behalf of St. Bernadette's, we want to thank Town Manager Howard and Council President Alexopoulos for attending and all they do for the Town.

Araba Adjei-Koranteng: I wanted to know if we can get a flashing crosswalk sign on Highland Glen Drive and Highland Avenue. There aren't a lot of lights in that area and I didn't know if there was something that could be done to make it safer. Council President Alexopoulos: We can forward that to the Fire and Police Department for their review and recommendations.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Summer Camp programs and summer camp employment opportunities are now open. The Town and Community Programs will send out an email regarding registration information.
2. I would like to bring forward the recommendation of Araba Adjei-Koranteng to serve as a member on the Board of Recreation. I would also like to bring forward the recommendation of Lou Sahlou to serve on the Planning Board. This person is a resident of North Street who is an adjunct professor and has served at Northeastern and has been active in the Ethiopian community.

Motion made by Councillor Egan to approve both appointments, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Burgess)

Motion Passes.

3. The recent MLK event at the Elk's Lodge done by the Councillor Huff-Larmond and the committee was great. The speaker, the music, and the readings were wonderful. I tremendously enjoyed the event. Great job.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2023-003: Transfer from Reserve Fund

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-003. Town Manager Howard gave a brief explanation on Reserve Fund transfer for the purchase and installation of a new water heater at the Zapustas Rink.

Council President Alexopoulos requested a Motion on this Council Order.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-003 as presented made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Burgess)

Motion Passes.

2. Council Order 2023-004: Adoption By the Randolph Town Council to Amend the Traffic Rules and Regulations of the Town of Randolph

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-004.

Town Manager Howard gave a visual presentation on where the signs would be displayed on North Main Street.

Councillor Gordon: I'm wondering what the process is to get additional signs throughout the Town. Should I tell the residents that they should request an evaluation from Police Chief Marag? Town Manager: There are times where a resident will reach out directly to the Police Department and then the Police Department will let us know and suggest bringing it before the Town Council. Or residents have come here during community speaks and we'll then forward it off to the Police Department. I would suggest if you have some that you haven't heard back on, let me know and I'll look into it. It depends on the size and scope of what is being requested but if costs are reasonable then it's something we can try to do.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: We should also think about the street survey that we did and broke into phases. Some of that work has not been implemented yet.

Council President Alexopoulos requested a motion on this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-004 as presented by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Burgess)

Motion Passes.

Correspondence:

1. Shaw's Community Opportunity - Join Shaw's for a Celebration at the Randolph Shaw's location on Saturday February 4, 2023 from 11 AM to 2 PM. The theme for the Celebration is "Black History: Honoring the Past and Inspiring the Future."
2. AARP Tax-Aid: Free Tax Preparation at Randolph Town Hall starting February 2, 2023 by appointment only. You can schedule an appointment by going online or by calling 781-214-0110.
3. From Planning Director, Michelle Tyler regarding Phase I Audit of Zoning Ordinances. The Planning Department has engaged the services of a consulting firm to conduct a Phase I Audit of the Town's Zoning Ordinances. The goal of the audit is to identify internal inconsistencies, issues regarding conformity with statutory and case law, omissions and areas where updates or amendments are required. The Consulting team will establish a series of dates/times to conduct interviews as referenced above. For more information, please reach out to Planning Director, Michelle Tyler.

Subcommittee Appointments:

Council President Alexopoulos announced the Subcommittee and Council Appointments for 2023. They are as follows:

2023 Council Subcommittee Appointments:

1. **Economic Development/Small Business/Real Estate**
James Burgess, Jesse Gordon, Katrina Huff-Larmond, Kevin O'Connell
2. **Human Services/Seniors/Recreation**
Christos Alexopoulos, Natacha Clerger, Jesse Gordon, Katrina Huff-Larmond
3. **Ordinance**
Richard Brewer, Natacha Clerger, Ryan Egan
4. **Public Safety**
Christos Alexopoulos, Richard Brewer, Kevin O'Connell
5. **Finance**
Entire Town Council

2023 Council Appointments

1. **Turner Free Library Trustees**
Richard Brewer, Natacha Clerger
2. **Veterans/Military Services Committee**
James Burgess
3. **Community Preservation Committee**
Ryan Egan
4. **Joint Board**
Christopher Pelliteri, DPW Superintendent
5. **Tri-Board**
William Alexopoulos
6. **Master Plan Implementation Committee**
Jesse Gordon

Councillor Clerger requested to be on the Veterans/Military Services Subcommittee. Council President Alexopoulos stated she may serve on this Committee along with Councillor Burgess. Councillor Clerger declined.

Open Council Comments:

1. Councillor C. Alexopoulos: Drive safely in the snow everyone!
2. Councillor Clerger: I respect the hard work of the Department of Public Works however, during the snow season there has been an ongoing issue when snow plows move snow in front of people's driveways. Councillor Brewer: I recommend leaving the last two feet of snow at the end of the driveway so it helps to create a barrier for more snow entering your driveway and waiting until the Town completes their job to finish shoveling.
3. Councillor Brewer: Happy 6th birthday to my grandson Luke today and wishing you many happy more!
4. Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Can I please get information on the Council Conference? I would like to attend. 2. The MLK event went well and was so moving. People had a good time and everything about it was worth it. I thought it was awesome that Detective Tuitt was the DJ- that's what community policing means to me is when the police take a part in community events. 3. There will be a sex exploitation and human trafficking event on January 31, 2023, 6:30 PM at the Brockton Library. Many people don't think about human trafficking but it's in everyone's backyard and I think it's worth attending. 4. On February 4, 2023 my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. is doing an indoor community walk at the RICC to promote a healthy self. Come out and join us! 5. Shout out to Milly, the President of the Gardening Club. I've been speaking with Milly about how I can use the lack of gardening skills that I have and I'm really excited that I've been motivated to participate more. 6. The Woman's Club is having an event in March for Women's International Day. Stay tuned for more information. 7. The Corner of North Street and North Main has two arrows that are fading. If there is something that can be done to fix that, it would be great.
5. Councillor Gordon: There is a meeting with the Coalition for Social Justice on transportation issues in Randolph, the meeting link is on my website at JesseGordon.com. The first issue being talked about is regarding the Shuttle Van for Randolph which is likely to become a vote before the Town Council and a ballot question in November. The second issue is regarding the BAT #12 bus which makes a stop at Town Hall. The issue is that the MBTA and BAT have a territorial jurisdiction fight and you therefore cannot use the BAT North of that line at Town Hall. I'd love to hear people's thoughts and stories on this. 2. I previously brought up the issue of white supremacist tagging on the Horse Bridge in Blue Hills. They hold banners on the bridge and then they tag their logos and other messages to the bridge. The police very quickly painted over it when it was brought to their attention. There is a new law being introduced at the State House called "HD1196" proposed by petitioner Clinton Graham from Milton, which aims to strengthen the definition of hate speech by including a clause that states "providing and causing hate speech is hate speech." I'm writing to Representative Driscoll to encourage him to sponsor it and I encourage the people of Randolph to do the same.

6. Councillor O'Connell: Former Councillor McDermott was praying for snow and his wish came true!

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Burgess & Egan)

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.