



## **Randolph Town Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

**This is a hybrid meeting. The Public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access.**

**Call to Order:** Council Vice-President Brewer called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call – Council Members Present:** Chris Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James F. Burgess, Jr. (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (In-Person).

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor Thompson.

**Moment of Silent Prayer:** Moment of Silent Prayer held.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Councillor Gordon entered the meeting, in person, at 6:11 pm.

#### **1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting June 6, 2022**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting on June 6, 2022, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-0 (Abstention: O’Connell & Thompson; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

#### **Presentations:**

#### **1. Council Order 2024-024: Acceptance of Gift from Boy Scout Troop 47 to the Town of Randolph**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-024. Town Manager Howard provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024, with the gift to be used by the Conservation Commission for upkeep of the signs that were part of the sign project worked on by Boy Scout Troop 47 and Scout Lawton, made by Councillor O’Connell, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

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

Motion passes.

#### **Public Hearings:**

## 1. 6:15 PM - Council Order 2024-021: FY2025 Annual Operating Budget

Council Order 2024-021 was introduced in the Special Town Council meeting on April 10, 2024. The legal advertisement was placed in the Patriot Ledger on March 27, and April 3, 2024. Town Manager Howard presented an amended version of this Council Order, entitled "Council Order 2024A FY2025 Annual Operating Budget," that includes a 5% increase to the school department budget.

Council Vice President Brewer opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.

1. Sarah Joncas, Avalon Drive Randolph, MA:
2. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: 13% raise, then 3% and another 3%. private schools are
3. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: I appreciate the consideration of increasing the school budget with the 5% increase however, I feel very strongly about increasing it to 6.2%. Education is the building block of young people's lives.

There were no more public comments. Council President Brewer closed the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Councillor Burgess: With the 5% increase what were the changes? Town Manager Howard: I increased the one-time funds to approximately \$880,000.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Did you have to take from any other budget? Town Manager Howard: No. I just increased the amount of one-time money being used to fund the School Department budget.

Councillor Gordon: The only increase is in the Randolph Public School line item which means the only increase in the funding source is from the ARPA line which is one-time funds. If there were to be a 6.25% increase we could again use one-time funds. Town Manager Howard: If I were to increase it, it would probably come from the ARPA category since this is the last year to use it. I am trying to preserve the free cash as much as possible. Councillor Gordon: I think this is a very responsible budget. I'd like to hear from the Superintendent. Superintendent Thea Stovell: We are very grateful for the increase that was given. With a 5% increase, we'd be looking at a maximum of cutting approximately 20 staff members.

Town Manager shared statistical data on net school spending of various districts in the Commonwealth, and FY2023 per pupil expenditures.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-021A as presented, made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-0 (Nays: O'Connell)

Motion passes.

### Public Comments:

1. Ira Greene, 63 Fowler Street, Randolph, MA: Can we get flashing crosswalk signs at the intersection of West Street and Fowler Street, near the dog park, and improved traffic signals at the intersection of Warren Street and Highland Avenue?
2. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: What happened to the \$300,000 in trash?
3. Geurlince Semezier, 60 Mill Street- You are all doing an amazing job.
4. Janelle Stevens, Randolph, MA: I am the President of the non-profit organization South Shore Caribbean Connection. This June is Caribbean American Heritage Month. There will be a flag raising on June 7, 2024, at 2:00 PM in front of the Randolph Town Hall. Next, there will be a Community Dinner

at The Well Jamaican Restaurant on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 4:00 PM. Tickets are limited so please be sure to reserve your seat. Caribbean Cultural Day will be on Friday, June 21, 2024, from 6-8 PM, and lastly, Praise in the Park will be at the pavilion at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center on June 22, 2024, from 3-7 PM and the rain date is June 23, 2024. 2. Destiny African Market of Randolph is hosting a community event, “Dam Fam Day,” on Sunday, July 7, 2024, from 3-5 PM.

## **New Business:**

### **2. Council Order 2024-025: Additional Appropriation For Bucket Truck**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-025. Town Manager Howard provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Councillor Burgess expressed concern regarding vetting various needs of the Town and ensuring they are brought forward in a timely manner.

Council Vice-President Brewer: This Council Order will be continued to a future Town Council meeting for a public hearing.

### **3. Council Order 2024-026: Transfer of ARPA Revenue Loss Funds to Various FY24 Budgets**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-026. Town Manager Howard provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-026, made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

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

Motion passes.

### **4. Discussion and Approval of Contract Amendment for the Town Finance Director/Town Accountant**

Councillor Burgess: Council President Alexopoulos appointed me, Councillor C. Alexopoulos, and Councillor Thompson to the Contract Negotiation Subcommittee for Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith. After meeting with the Finance Director and negotiating a contract in good faith, we unanimously voted to extend the contract to five years, increase the vacation upon reaching ten years of employment, and a few additional changes. We believe Ms. Smith has done an excellent job maintaining the town’s cash flow.

Councillor Huff-Larmond asked about the negotiations that took place with last year’s contract negotiation subcommittee. Ms. Smith: The current contract ends FY2025 and the salary amount for FY2025 did not change since it was last agreed upon last year.

Motion to approve the amendments made to the contract as negotiated by the contract negotiation subcommittee and that an amended contract be presented and signed at the next Town Council meeting, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Discussion:

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

Motion passes.

## **Correspondence:**

1. **Randolph Day:** Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 1 to 3 PM at the Zapustas Arena Parking lot: 240 North Street, Randolph. There will be a Touch-A-Truck section, Community Partner Tables, Safety Demonstrations, Food Trucks, and more.
2. **Randolph Community Partnership Inc.:** 2024 Red Carpet Gala on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 6-10 PM at the Granite Links, 100 Quarry Hills Drive, Quincy, MA. To purchase tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/randolphcommunitypartnershipinc/1151811>
3. **Randolph's 2024 Night Before the Fourth:** Parade kicks off at 7 PM on July 2, 2024. The parade begins at the Higashi School on North Main Street into Crawford Square.
4. **Randolph's 2nd Annual Health and Wellness Expo:** Saturday, June 8 from 11 AM to 2 PM at the Randolph Intergeneration Community Center. Registration is required: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScn9Tsr7mVZ06SrFOYC86r2X3Qqg3HaPJ9doshtqyLz5Pz\\_Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScn9Tsr7mVZ06SrFOYC86r2X3Qqg3HaPJ9doshtqyLz5Pz_Q/viewform)

### Council Comments:

Councillor Gordon: I attended a recent Milton Town Meeting to address the Chickatawbut Road updates; I also attended an Avon Town meeting to discuss the blasting occurring at TL Edwards on the border of Randolph. The Town Meeting decided I could not be heard at all so I have made a new petition; We need to an updated paint job on the crosswalk by the dog park and it would be great to have blinking lights at the intersection of Warren; I'm proposing a joint meeting with the Stetson Hall Trustees to discuss the functionality and operations of the Stetson Hall space.

Councillor Burgess: 1. I'm concerned that the Licensing Board has issued one-day liquor licenses to an event space by 7/11. What is going on in that location? Town Manager Howard: That matter is being looked into.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Randolph Youth Council is having a game night at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center this Friday, May 17, 2024.; June 1, 2024, is Randolph Day at the Zapuestas Ice Arena and the Randolph High School Graduation; The Progress Pride Flag raising is on May 31, 2024, and there will be a Progress Pride celebration in June; Norfolk-Plymouth County Area Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting a 5k Run/Walk Challenge and there will be lots of healthy snacks; Juneteenth celebrations will take place at Powers Farm on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 11 AM. DEI Coalition is hosting the Progress Pride celebration at the First Congressional Church on Saturday, June 29, 2024, from 12-4 PM. There will be lots of fun activities and entertainment.

Councillor O'Connell: Happy Mother's Day to everyone who celebrated!

Councillor Thompson: Can we get an update on the residents who were affected by the Fire? Town Attorney Griffin: The Randolph Intergenerational Community Center (RICC) continues to collect gift cards and donations online for the families. The shelter at the RICC itself closed after a couple of days because the residents were able to find somewhere to live. Many different agencies and organizations stepped in to assist the residents variously.

### Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.  
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent during vote: W. Alexopoulos; Absent: Egan)  
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.