



Randolph Town Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, August 7, 2023, 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 President Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: William Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (By Zoom), James Burgess (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person).

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor Burgess.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting June 26, 2023

Motion to approve the Minutes of Town Council Meeting on June 26, 2023, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1 (Abstention: Brewer; Absent: C. Alexopoulos, Clerger and Egan)

Motion passes.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos entered the Town Council meeting, in person, at 6:09 PM.

Announcements from the President:

1. I had the pleasure of attending a tour of the new school being built at the old Devine School location. It is proceeding as scheduled and will be operational in September of 2024.
2. The Water Treatment Plant is also proceeding as scheduled. The flooring has been completed and they are currently working on the foundation of the building. Pretty soon when you look across the reservoir you’ll notice the bones of a building being built. The Water Treatment Plant is also scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2024.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM: Council Order 2023-045

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing for this Council Order. The Town Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisement that was published in the Boston Herald on July 27, 2023.

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2023-045 and provided a brief overview of the FY2024 Capital Improvement Plan.

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

1. Mr. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: 3. When are we going to work on the schools? Town Manager Howard: I have provided the school department with the appropriate forms. Once I receive information back from the Superintendent, I will reach back out to the Town Council.
2. Guerlince Semezier, 60 Mills Street: I have not seen any funding for emergency housing, resources for business development, and community group services. Is there a plan for that? Town Manager Howard: You cannot use capital funds for operations, they need to be used for physical items.

Councillor Egan entered the meeting room, via Zoom.

There were no additional public comments. Council President Alexopoulos closed the public comments portion of the public hearing and opened it to the Council for comments/questions.

Councillor Burgess: At some point we are getting rid of the other vehicles, correct? Town Manager: Correct, they will be replaced.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Sometimes the audience may not understand things being discussed, such as the capital plan so I appreciate the question and explanation. You mentioned something was earmarked? Town Manager Howard: Yes, there was \$250,000 to cover a good portion of the ambulance. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Where are we with paving and what is the plan? Howard: We will be doing approximately four, maybe five streets this fiscal year.

Councillor Gordon: I see the five year plan for street paving has a flat amount and with inflation, we end up cutting the number of streets we can actually do. We should increase that by \$1.3M to keep up with inflation. You do that for the police cruisers so I suggest doing an adjustment like that here. As we discussed during the operating budget, I suggest doing what the Town Charter says about reviewing the operating budget in november, also for the Capital Plan.

Councillor Brewer: I think this is a realistic capital improvement plan.

Council President Alexopoulos: I understand what Jesse is saying. The price of some of these items are quite remarkable. All of these items are going to be borrowed for and the residents pay for it. The newer our equipment is, the better our bond rating. The higher our bond rating the lower the interest is. Town Manager Howard: Bond Council wants to know there is a five-year plan. They understand things happen but for the most part, this keeps us in compliance.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: So essentially Randolph has good credit. Is there an example where a Town may not have a great bond rating and the consequences? Council President Alexopoulos: Yes, Chelsea is a great example.

Councillor Gordon: There is an item not on the capital budget which is Chapter 90 grants because we don't pay those with our property taxes. I think we should talk about the capital improvement plan when we talk about the operating budget in November.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: I have seen the growth. Everything doesn't happen overnight. As the Town Manager has said over the last few meetings, we have received a lot of money in grant funding. We just

recently started talking about Green Communities and you want to introduce that to the Public soon through Council. I think we need to inform the public that the work is being done. I don't want the public to think we are sitting back and not doing the work to bring in the money.

Councillor Burgess: I call to question the main motion.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-045 made by Council Vice-President Brewer, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

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

Motion passes.

Public Comments/Discussions

1. Kathleen Crogan-Camera, 52 West Street: I worked on the mobility hub petition and I was thrilled that the Town voted in favor of it in June. I'm wondering what comes next. When does the feasibility study begin?
2. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: 1. What is our bond rating? 2. Most of our street issues come from gas companies ripping up the street. When gas companies come up and rip up the street that's most of the issues with street paving.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2023-046: Prior Fiscal Year Unpaid Bills

Council President Alexopoulos introduced and read Council Order 2023-046. Town Manager Howard provided a brief explanation regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-046 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion passes.

2. Town Attorney Contract for FY2024 through FY2026

Councillor O'Connell: The Subcommittee met and we believe this agreement is fair. We think Town Attorney Griffin is a valuable player in the day to day function of Town Hall. The changes consist of: 1. Her pay will increase to \$180,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024, \$185,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025, and \$185,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026. She receives an additional week of vacation for a total of 30 vacation days, and the ability to buy back up to two weeks of vacation days.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: So it's a three year contract? Council President Alexopoulos: Correct, that cannot be changed.

Motion to approve the Town Attorney's Contract made by Councillor Ryan Egan, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

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

Motion passes.

Town Manager's Report:

1. It's election season! Call the Town Clerk's office or visit the Town's website for more information. the deadline is September 15, 2023.

2. Hazardous Waste drop off on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at the Randolph High School parking lot from 9 AM to 12 PM. 781-961-0924 I want to thank the Health Commissioner and his department for putting this together.

Questions for the Town Manager:

1. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Do we have any updates on the Randolph High School track? Town Manager Howard: It's lookin good. My understanding is that the work will be done within the next few weeks and should reopen soon. They're going to put up a lot more signage as requested and people will hopefully treat it well. It is a very popular track. Councillor Huff-Larmond: It was a shame to see individuals on the field during construction. I was wondering if it's possible to have more patrol at that location, or more cameras to help protect it. Councillor Burgess: I mentioned before that it might be a good idea to implement a card situation to help enforce accountability.
2. Councillor Huff-Larmond requested an update on the Department of Public Works position. Town Manager Howard: The second round of interviews is underway this week and hopefully we'll have a candidate to bring forward shortly thereafter.
3. Councillor Huff-Larmond requested an update regarding the Town's Covid-19 statistic and the possibility of the Health Commissioner coming in to inform the Council about these updates. Town Manager Howard: Yes, Mr. Cody is willing to certainly come in and provide an update.
4. Councillor C. Alexopoulos: Will there be any work done on the High School Football field? Town Manager Howard: I'd have to check in with the School Department and see if it's something they will put on their Capital Plan.

Correspondence:

1. There is a Ping-Pong Tournament on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center for single players and/or teams. Please email KTheodore@Randolph-MA.gov for registration information.
2. Calling All Volunteers! Make an impact in your community by volunteering at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center. Please visit the the <https://www.randolphicc.com/> for additional information.
3. The Community Wellness Project has been working on a Community eCookbook. They are still accepting recipes through August 15, 2023. Please email them to TasteOfRandolph@gmail.com.

Committee Reports:

School Committee: Councillor Gordon provided an update regarding the School Committee. I attended a recent Lyons School Tour. I'd like to thank the School Committee and the Town for doing a great job with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) grant. I asked what the rules are concerning when we can start on the next MSBA grant application. The rules are that once you complete a certain level of completion, which should occur next year, then you're able to ask for the next grant. I think we should do all the groundwork now so that when it's time, we're able to move forward with the MSBA grant application.

Human Services/Seniors/Recreation Subcommittee: Councillor Gordon provided updates regarding this Subcommittee. 1. In the last scheduled meeting we didn't have a quorum so I'd like to propose Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 5:30 PM to bring up two PFAS Council Orders I'd like to bring forward. The first one is for the Department of Public Works (DPW) to be able to do PFAS testing, and the second one is for the Conservation Commission to be empowered to order PFAS testing for new construction and reconstruction. The goal of both of those orders is to be able to find the source of the PFAS that's getting into our reservoir and remove it. I did have a meeting with Battelle, a local PFAS

testing entity, about costs and how it's done. 2. I'd like to invite a Green Community representative to make a presentation and share information about what it means to be a Green Community.

Council Comments:

Council Vice-President Brewer: 1. My sons and grandchildren attended Randolph Police Department's National Night Out. I wasn't able to attend but I heard everyone had a great time. Hats off to everyone who put it together.

Councillor O'Connell: 1. I attended Kerm's Day at Powers Farm and it went unbelievably well. I had the honor of presenting them with my first Proclamation. They are a great business in the community. 2. I recently learned that there is weekly kayaking available at Powers Farm. Go out and visit! 3. Congrats to Kevin Gilbert for making Sargent.

Councillor Gordon: 1. I knocked on the doors of many neighbors of Randolph Road. He gave me a lovely tour. A Lot of people suggested a traffic light at the intersection of Oak Street and North Street. 2. I also attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and asked a lot about PFAS.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: National Night Out was great. It's great to see a lot of members of the community. 2. Congrats to Kevin Gilbert for getting promoted to Sergeant. It's nice to see kids I grew up with making a positive impact in the community. I want to encourage residents to take the civil service tests and to stay involved.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. The Randolph Police Department's National Night Out was great 2. At our next meeting, we'll have a presentation from many of the Youth Interns that participated in the summer internship program. 3. I also attended the recent NAACP convention. There was a lot of discussion on voting rights, reproductive justice, removing black history from history classes and so much more. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is having an event in September to talk about what we're doing and what we hope to accomplish. It has been a great collaboration with the police. 4. I wasn't able to make the Jamaican Flag Raising- I hope it went well. 5. Please keep me in your prayers. My son left for college yesterday!

Council President Alexopoulos: The annual Greek festival is coming up September 14-17 at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Brockton . It's a month away. Let your nose do the walking for you!

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Burgess.
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent During Vote: Egan; Absent: Clerger)
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.