



Randolph Town Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, July 15, 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: William Alexopoulos, (Via Zoom), Richard Brewer (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (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 in remembrance of Tina Fox, Tarrah Burke, and Peter Clapp.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting June 24, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting on June 24, 2024, made by Councillor O’Connell, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion passes.

Presentation:

1. Proclamation for Stajez

The Town Council presented a Proclamation to Stajez Cultural Arts Center “Stajez” and BSR Queens. Stajez and BSR Queens have participated in countless Town events over the years which bring a vibrant and unifying energy to all. Stajez and BSR Queens have been selected to compete in the Junior category of the World Hip Hop International Dance Competition in August and are seeking donations to assist with the costs associated with this trip. Donations can be made by making checks payable to: Stajez Cultural Arts Center for BSR Queens Dance Crew. Mailing address: Stajez Cultural Arts Center, 97 North Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368. For questions: call 508-649-7334.

2. Proclamation for Kerri Anne Berry

The Town Council presented a Proclamation to Kerry Anne Berry in recognition of her dedication and contributions to the Town of Randolph and its residents through her kindness, generosity, and unwavering spirit. Ms. Berry has assisted many Town Departments, including the Randolph School Department by conducting regular clothing drives, and more recently, the Randolph

Police Department in fundraising for the Michael Beal Scholarship Fund, which is dedicated to students pursuing a career in criminal justice.

Public Hearings:

1. **6:15 PM - Council Order 2024-023: Request for the Town Council to Initiate An Amendment to the Randolph Zoning Ordinance – Chapter 200 of the General Code of the Town of Randolph – To Amend Section 200-5, Zoning Map, to include 661 North Street in the Residential Multi-Family District (RMFD) Pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 40A, sec. 5**

Council Order 2024-023 was introduced at the Town Council meeting on April 29, 2024, and referred to the Planning Board and Town Council Ordinance Subcommittee. Council Vice-President Brewer opened the public hearing on this matter on June 24, 2024, and the Town Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisements published in the Patriot Ledger on June 7, and June 14, 2024. The Planning Board has not submitted its report regarding this Council Order yet so the public hearing was continued to July 15, 2024, at 5:15 PM. The Planning Board since then submitted its report on June 27, 2024. The Town Planning Director was present to discuss Council Order 2024-023 and present additional information. The Planning Board voted 5-0-0 to amend the original order and recommend rezoning the rear portion of the parcel currently zoned industrial to residential single-family high density. The result is that the entire 9-acre parcel is zoned residential single-family high density (RSFHD).

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

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: If this is only residential, how much money does the Town lose by not making it zoned for commercial?

There were no more public comments. Council Vice-President Brewer closed the public comments portion of the public hearing and opened it to the Council for questions and comments.

Councillor Brewer: Could that be dedicated as a private road so we're not responsible for plowing? Ms. Tyler: If that road meets the criteria, then the planning board will recommend it as a public way and then the Town Council is responsible for making that final decision.

Councillor Thompson: So it was requested for it to be zoned as multi-family? What was the reason the Planning Board recommended the single-family zoning? Ms. Tyler: It was a discussion that was held with me through the Planning Board about what potentially could occur with the seven acres of land. Otherwise it would have been spot zoning. When you change zoning of a single parcel, it cannot be done to benefit only that one parcel. Changing that parcel to create a new district would be nonconfirming to the abutters of that neighborhood.

Council Vice-President Brewer continued this public hearing to the Town Council meeting on July 29, 2024, at 6:15 PM.

Public Comments:

1. Guerline Semezier, Mills Street: I want to congratulate everyone on their work for the Night Before the Fourth Parade. Everyone did an amazing job and it was a wonderful experience.
2. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: 1. Cars are driving down Perly Evens Drive too fast and at times not stopping at the stop sign. Can we look into adding speed bumps to this street? 2. The foliage on Memorial Parkway has not been tended to. This area is representative of the Town and it should be cleaned up.

3. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: Thank you to the Town and the Council for their support for my family and my daughter.
4. Ketty Malary, Chestnut West, Randolph, MA: There was a petition going around for a shuttle bus to transport people in apartment complexes to different locations and I don't know why there is a hurdle for getting that. I live with my mother who is over 90 years old and she cannot walk from our apartment to Shaws.

Old/Unfinished Business:

1. **Council Order 2024-035: Appropriation of Public, Education, Government (PEG) Access Funds**

Council Order 2024-035 was introduced at the Town Council meeting on June 24, 2024. The Town Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisement which was published in the Patriot Ledger on July 9, 2024. Town Manager Howard provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-035 as presented made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

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

Motion passes.

New Business:

1. **Council Order 2024-039: Request for the Town Council to Initiate Amendments to the Randolph Zoning Ordinance - Chapter 200 of the General Code of the Town of Randolph - To add a new Section 200-14.5 Randolph Community Multifamily Overlay District (RCMOD) and amend sections 200-3 Definitions, 200-5 Zoning Map, and 200- 6 Establishments to comply with the requirements of MGL Chapter 40A Section 3A Multi-family zoning as-of-right in MBTA Communities**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-035 and was joined by Town Planning Director Michelle Tyler to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order. We need to be compliant with the State by December 31, 2024, to continue receiving state funding. Attached you will find the proposed Council Order that was put together as a result of the various meetings held with participating members of the Town Council, Planning Board, and the public.

The public hearing with the Planning for this matter will be held on August 13, 2024, in the Washington Room at Town Hall and the link to connect to the meeting virtually will be on the Town's website on the day of the meeting.

Councillor Gordon: I'd like to encourage the public to come to this meeting to learn more about the MBTA zoning. The public rejected this in several other Towns.

Council Vice-President Brewer: This Council Order will be referred to the Planning Board and Ordinance Subcommittee for their review.

2. **Council Order 2024-040: FY24 Year-End Transfers**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-040 and Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order that is voted every year.

Councillor Huff-Larmond asked about the Town's Manager salary budget and whether or not this effected the salary of an Assistant Town Manager.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-040 as presented made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Thompson.

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

Motion passes.

3. Council Order 2024-041: Acceptance of Local Option Statute M.G.L. Ch. 59, Section 5, Clause Twenty-second G Concerning Veterans and Domiciles Held By a Fiduciary

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-041 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Council Vice-President Brewer: This Council Order will be continued to the next agenda for a vote after it has been advertised.

4. Council Order 2024-042: Acceptance of Gift of a Truck from the Randolph Housing Authority to the Town of Randolph

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-042 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-042 as presented made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Thompson.

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

Motion passes.

Correspondence:

- 1. Randolph Hiking Adventures**, a program run by the RICC and Randolph Mass in Motion Initiative is hosting one more hiking adventure on August 18, 2024, at the Blue Hills. Meet at Shea Memorial Rink, 651 Willard Street, Quincy, MA, 02169, at 1:00 PM.
- 2. Randolph Recreation Presents Randolph Summer Sounds: Concerts & Farmers Artisan Markets:** On the first Sunday of every month from June to September, stop at the Joseph J. Hart Memorial Park at 240 North Street in Randolph for concerts and Farmers Artisan Markets. The concerts specifically are from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, and the Farmers Market runs from 1 PM to 4 PM.
- 3. Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities Notice of Public Hearing and Evidentiary Hearing, and Request for Comments:** The Department will conduct a public hearing on Eversource Gas Company's petition for authorization and approval: 1. to issue long-term debt securities in an amount not to exceed \$325 million, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 § 14; and 2. for an exemption from the the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164 § 15. The public hearing will take place on Thursday, July 18, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m. to receive comments on the Company's filing. The public hearing will be immediately followed, if necessary, by an evidentiary hearing. Attendees can join by Zoom or by phone. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by Tuesday, July 16, 2024, to jennifer.cargill@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 617-305-3732 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address. Alternatively, any person interested in commenting on this matter also may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, July 19, 2024

4. **Randolph Council on Aging Logo Design Contest:** Each person can submit up to five logos. The images must be simple, easily recreated, and include something historically significant about Randolph. It can be a picture, words, or a combination of both. All submissions must be sent to joansmith@msn.com and must be received by August 31, 2024. The final decision will be announced on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, after the Council on Aging meeting.
5. **Comcast Xfinity Program Changes:** 1. Outside TV features will increase the cost of its Subscription Video On Demand package from \$1.99 per month to \$4.99 per month; 2. Gaia will increase the cost of its Subscription Video On Demand package from \$11.99 per month to \$13.99 per month; 3. Warner Brothers Discovery will increase the cost of its Max (ad-free tier) and HBO subscriptions from \$15.99 per month to \$16.99 per month.

Committee Reports:

1. Councillor Gordon: Environmental requested that correspondence regarding the Green Communities process be added to an agenda packet. Councillor Gordon also requested that his proposed resolution concerning street paving and sidewalk paving go to the Public Safety Subcommittee.
2. Councillor Huff-Larmond requested a meeting for the Ordinance Subcommittee on July 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

Council Comments:

Councillor Gordon: 1. What is the next step regarding the mobility hub petition? I'd like to see a public hearing on that because I will certainly introduce a Council Order suggesting what I'd like to do so we can have a proper discussion about which action we want to take. 2. The Council Order regarding Unaccepted Streets which passed in 2022 was never implemented. We were supposed to receive a report in February 2023 and February 2024 and we have not seen it. I think it's a very important report. Additional discussion of the Council was held regarding how the Mobility Hub would be funded.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Can we get an update on the Assistant Town Manager position? Town Manager Howard: The new job posting and application have been posted on the website. We are reaching out to folks who applied recently to make sure there is still interest and then we are moving forward! 2. July 3rd was a great event! Thank you to Liz LaRosee and her team. 3. Interviews are happening this Wednesday for the High School Internship program. 4. The Randolph Pride Festival was great with great entertainment. Thank you to the First Congressional Church for partnering with the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Coalition to make it all happen. 5. The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Coalition will continue to work on items throughout the Town. 6. The Blue Hills NAACP is reactivating. Meetings are starting to happen to get it started. If you want to be a member, contact me.

Councillor O'Connell: 1. Has the school department sent out notices to residents yet for where their child will be going to school? Do parents have the ability to decide if their child attends the new school? 2. Thank you to the police department for their barbeque cookout on the Night Before the Fourth. 3. I attended the Ribbon Cutting for the new Rubbington Memorial Park. I arrived early and the library was hosting an awesome event with Owls and it was fantastic to see. I want to encourage everyone to check out the Turner Free Library for fun events. 4. Destiny African Food Market had a great event. I'm a customer now and happier in my district because I don't have to go far.

Councillor Thompson: I had a great time walking in the parade for the first time. Thank you to all departments involved in making the night happen. Thank you to the Department of Public Works for taking care of the Lafayette and West Street stop sign. It was great to see that quickly get fixed. 3. If you see zombies on North Main Street, TV shows are being filmed.

Councillor Brewer: I am amazed at how well the Night Before the Fourth went. I was able to watch it online. 2. Can we get the Department of Public Works to visit the dog park for some maintenance? The walkway to Grove Street has been in major disrepair.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent during vote: W. Alexopoulos, Absent: Burgess and Egan)

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.