



Randolph Town Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, January 9, 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, James Burgess, Natacha Clerger, Ryan Egan, Jesse Gordon, Katrina Huff-Larmond, Kevin O’Connell.

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Chris Alexopoulos.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

2023 Council President and Vice President Elections

Election of 2023 Council President.

Councillor W. Alexopoulos asked for nominations for Council President.

Councillor Gordon nominated Councillor Huff-Larmond to serve as Council President, seconded by Councillor Burgess. Councillor Huff-Larmond accepted the nomination.

Councillor Brewer nominated Councillor William Alexopoulos to serve as Council President, seconded by Councillor Burgess. Councillor W. Alexopoulos accepted the nomination.

Councillor W. Alexopoulos asked for a roll call vote:

Councillor C. Alexopoulos voted for Councillor W. Alexopoulos.

Councillor W. Alexopoulos voted for Councillor W. Alexopoulos.

Councillor Brewer voted for Councillor Alexopoulos.

Councillor Burgess voted for Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Councillor Clerger voted for Councillor W. Alexopoulos.

Councillor Egan voted for Councillor W. Alexopoulos.

Councillor Gordon voted for Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Councillor Huff-Larmond voted for Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Councillor O’Connell voted for Councillor W. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 6 in favor of Councillor W. Alexopoulos for Council President, 3 in favor for Councillor Huff-Larmond for Council President, 0 abstentions.

Motion made by Councillor Burgess to make the election of the Council President Unanimous, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Passes. Councillor W. Alexopoulos is elected the 2023 Council President.

Councillor W. Alexopoulos: Thank you everyone for your vote of confidence. We have a lot of work this year with projects that are in the works. We will have another successful and fruitful year.

Election of 2023 Council Vice-President.

Councillor W. Alexopoulos asked for nominations for Council Vice-President.

Councillor Gordon nominated Councillor Gordon to serve as Council Vice-President, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos nominated Councillor Brewer to serve as Council Vice-President, seconded by Councillor Burgess. Councillor Brewer accepted the nomination.

Councillor W. Alexopoulos asked for a roll call vote:

Councillor C. Alexopoulos voted for Councillor Brewer.

Councillor W. Alexopoulos voted for Councillor Brewer.

Councillor Brewer voted for Councillor Brewer.

Councillor Burgess voted no.

Councillor Egan voted for Councillor Brewer

Councillor Gordon voted for Councillor Gordon.

Councillor Huff-Larmond voted for Councillor Gordon.

Councillor O'Connell voted for Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 5 in favor of Councillor Brewer for Council Vice-President, 2 in favor for Councillor Gordon for Council Vice-President, 1 voting nay. Councilor Clerger was absent during the vote.

Motion made by Councillor Burgess to make the election of the Council Vice-President Unanimous, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Councillor Clerger absent during vote)

Motion Passes. Councillor Brewer is elected the 2023 Council Vice-President.

Appointment of 2023 School Committee Representative

Council President Alexopoulos will serve as the 2023 Town Council School Committee Representative.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Officers

Town Clerk Sass swore in Councillor W. Alexopoulos as Council President for 2023.

Town Clerk Sass swore in Councillor Brewer as Council Vice-President for 2023.

Town Clerk Sass swore in Councillor W. Alexopoulos as the Town Council School Committee Representative for 2023.

Approval of 2023 Town Council Meeting Dates

1. 2023 Potential Meeting Schedule:

January 9 and 23

February 6 and 27

March 13 and 27

April 3 and 24

May 8 and 22

June 5 and 26

July 10 and 24

August 7 and 21

September 11
October 16 and 30
November 6 and 20
December 11

Approved with the consent of the Council.

Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes of Town Council Meeting November 28, 2022

Motion to approve the Minutes of Town Council Meeting on November 28, 2022 made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Council Vice President Brewer.

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

Motion passes.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM: Request to Submit an FY22/23 CDBG Grant Application

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing on this matter. The Town Council Clerk read the legal notices that were published in the Patriot Ledger on December 20, 2023 and December 27, 2023.

Planning Director, Michelle Tyler, gave a presentation on the CDBG Grant Application.

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

Joe Burke, Hills Street - Regarding the administrator that will get \$104k, what happens when the grant runs- who pays this person? Ms. Tyler: Those funds were appropriated in the last grant to pay for those services. If we do not have the grant, the program ends and we would close out the cases we have. That information is also listed in the contract.

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

Councillor Huff-Larmond: If we don't get this grant again, then the program will close because we don't have the funding. This is a program that's significant to our community and we should be dedicated to putting money towards this program if we don't receive this grant. There are a number of residents having financial hardship. If we could get a heads up, if possible, on what the situation is because I hope we can get the funding through other means.

Councillor Gordon: My understanding of how this grant worked last year is that we hired an outside consultant and that process was successful. Did we do that this year? Ms. Tyler: Our contract with the grant administrator included a provision that they provide the application for subsequent years. They are and, following this vote, they will follow the process for submitting the application to CDBG. While it is a highly competitive process, the fact that we were so successful the first time around, I would be shocked, though it's always possible that we would not be awarded a second grant. Councillor Gordon: The \$104k is for a grant administrator- is that one full time person? Ms. Tyler: There is the grant administrator which is Bailey and Boyd who handles child care subsidies, review of applications, reporting, hiring specialists which usually consists of three people and then there are others involved

such as lead specialists, and contractors, etc. At minimum there are five people working to ensure that the funds are appropriately allocated.

Councillor Brewer: Is it a team of people that reviews and approves the applications? Ms. Tyler: Yes, that is correct. They are not from town; all the documents are private and no one in town has access to those documents.

Motion made by Councillor Brewer to vote to submit the FY22/23 CDBG Grant Application for housing rehabilitation and childcare subsidies and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the grant application and associated forms, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

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

Motion Passes.

Public Comments:

1. Joe Burke, Hills Street - On the corner of Pond Street and North Main Street, there is a store that seems to be a problem with parking and when you try to get by at night you can't get by because of all the cars parked in the area. The Fire Dept. were called and they even had a problem getting in. Council President: We'll have the safety officer look at it and advise us on next steps.
2. Sandy Cohen, Bittersweet Lane - I'm wondering what you're seeing in terms of the Covid increase. Town Manager Howard: We're seeing increases like everyone else in the state. Hospitalizations are not the same issue as they were in the past. Reminder to all residents: We have vaccines, boosters, covid testing, and test kits at the Covid Site. You can pick up test kits at the Covid Site, RICC, and here at Town Hall. Ms. Cohen: What are they building on the Corner of North Street and Liberty Street, right across from the Sunoco? Council President: It's a convenience store.

Town Manager's Report:

1. I just wanted to thank everyone who put together the Holiday Celebrations in Town- Liz Larosee and Robyn Rinehart over at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center, and the Turner Free Library. The Community Band joined us, Police, Fire. Santa, who is friends with Councillor O'Connell. The events were a great turnout and it continues to build community.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2023-001: Prior Fiscal Year Unpaid Bills

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-001. Town Manager Howard gave a brief explanation on the Prior Fiscal Year Unpaid Bills.

Councillor Burgess: A few meetings back we talked about setting up a meeting regarding unpaid bills and encumbrances, and how that impacts our free cash number. Are there any unpaid bills for the fiscal year prior to the one in this council order that we haven't dealt with yet? Town Manager Howard: The only unpaid bill I can think of that would be for a prior fiscal year prior to last year would be for Zoom reimbursement. The Finance Director, Ms. Smith, also wanted to send a friendly reminder that "free cash" is not certified yet. So we can't use it as a funding source at this time. With that being said, as soon as it is certified, then we can talk about sitting with the Council to talk specifically about her analysis, which indicates that we'll certify less free cash than we had hoped to, based on some school related deficits. Councillor Burgess: It's important to maybe invite the School Committee Members here for that discussion.

Council President: Other questions for the Town Manager?

Councillor Burgess: Is there any update related to the traffic study? We had discussed getting an update on the status of prior Council Orders relating to the phased traffic study and the Council's votes on those proposals. We need to complete phase 4 of the traffic study. Town Manager Howard: I will speak to BETA on phase four and we'll get back to you.

Council President: Is there a motion on this Council Order?

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-001 as presented made by Council Vice President Brewer, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion Passes.

2. Council Order 2023-002: ARPA Budget Transfer

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-002. Town Manager Howard gave a brief explanation on the ARPA Budget Transfer.

Councillor Burgess: Are we expecting to throw more into the budget for Utilities? Town Manager Howard: It's tough to predict. We think we're in good shape, but there is no guarantee based on the current market.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-002 as presented made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

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

Motion Passes.

Correspondence:

1. From Town Veterans' Agent Kevin Cooke - There will be a burial ceremony for Luis Hernandez, a Randolph Veteran, who served in the U.S. Army on Wednesday, January 11, 2022 at 9:30am at the Bourne National Cemetery. The public is invited to attend.
2. The Randolph Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee will host the Town of Randolph Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, on Monday January 16, 2023 from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Randolph Elks Lodge. RSVP is recommended and you can do so by heading over to Randolph's Facebook page and clicking on the URL linked to the post with the flyer.
3. The Randolph Intergenerational Community Center is hosting a series of upcoming events: 1. Community Drumming Circle on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 PM; 2. Wellness Coaching Group Sessions with Petrena Woods on Saturdays from 11AM-12PM; 3. Photography/Videography Workshop Series starting January 19th from 6-8PM. 4. Latin Dance Mondays - Lessons with Paul Hughes from 5:30-6:30 PM. 5. Let's Eat Randolph is hosting a Virtual Cooking Class with the Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project on Saturday, 1/21/2023 via Zoom. They will be teaching you how to prepare japchae (potato starch noodles with vegetables) through step-by-step instructions. For more information regarding any of these programs, head over to the RICC in person or online.
4. From Town Manager & Saint Bernadette Parish/Rev. Mark Hoa Le: Celebrate the Lunar New Year on 1/15/2023. There will be a Holy Mass at 1:00 PM for those who wish to attend, and then a Lunar New Year celebration at the Church Hall from 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Please RSVP by letting me know if you plan on attending.

Councillor Burgess: We used to have a calendar for all the Councillors to input upcoming events or meetings. Can we get that going again? Town Council Clerk: Yes, absolutely. I can get that setup.

Committee Reports:

Councillor Clerger: Are you going to make new committees, or will they stay the same? Council President Alexopoulos: Subcommittees will be addressed during the next meeting. If you want to stay on the same committee or want to change, just send me an email and let me know.

Public Safety Committee - Council Vice President Brewer: Will be providing updates on the Complete Streets Policy and Unaccepted Streets from Councillor Gordon.

Open Council Comments:

1. Councillor Burgess: Thank you to the Congregational Church, they have a new sign up front and the placement is great. They worked with the community and fixed the lights so they're not as bright. Regarding the Zoning Ordinance for the Union Crossing Transit District: In the packet it says they met with Town Officials prior to them submitting the application materials and in the packet, it references that this is a modified set of plans. Is there another set of plans that was presented to the Town Manager, or to other members of the Council or Public Officials? Council Vice President Brewer: there may have been modifications based on the recommendations of the PRA when they initially met. We have not received those modified plans yet.
2. Councillor O'Connell: The Police Department is selling T-Shirts and the money raised is for charity events. Just wanted to let everyone know that they can stop by the Police Department to pick up shirts if they're interested.
3. Councillor Gordon: 1. On New Year's Day I participated in a lovely group hike at Blue Hills organized by the State Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources. 2. At this time last year, I brought up that we should purchase more Holiday lights. I think we've come to an agreement with the Town Manager regarding more Holiday lights. 3. The residents of Rosemont held a meeting right before the holidays. They are requesting a traffic light on High and Chestnut West because it is extremely difficult to make a left. 4. We were happy to see the ballots in Vietnamese and I was curious to see why we didn't see them in Haitian-Creole, which a majority of our residents speak. I was advised that a Home Rule Legislation is necessary and it's our goal to make this possible. We will discuss this with the DEI to see how we can make this possible.
4. Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Regarding the MLK event, please register if you plan on attending. 2. Thank you all for participating in the baby drive. We're collecting books for kids in the NICU so if you have any books to donate there is a box at the RICC. We will be going to the NICU at South Shore Hospital and Brockton Hospital. 3. There is also an MLK Celebration at Lombardo's in Randolph hosted by the NAACP. For more information, go on their website. 4. There were great celebrations in Randolph during the holidays. 5. The Holiday season was so fun in Randolph. I appreciate everything the Town did, the staff did, and all that was done to bring us together.
5. Council Vice President Brewer: 1. There is a Landlord/Tenant Issues workshop starting on Monday January 9th, at 6:30PM via Zoom where legal info will be discussed on landlord and tenant issues. Hosted by local legal librarian. 2. Dark parking lot. The parking lot at America's Food Basket is very dark. I've driven through at night and it's very dark. I don't know if we can have someone go take a look at it and see what we can do to bring in more lights.
6. Councillor Clerger: Happy New Year! Thanked everyone who came to the Haitian Independence Day Gala- I was surprised to see Senator Brady dancing Kompa so well. Stay healthy.
7. Councillor C. Alexopoulos: The Randolph High School basketball team is starting off the year 6-1- keep up the good work! It's Law Enforcement Appreciation Day- thank you Randolph Police for their hard work and making sure Randolph is safe. They are doing great under the leadership of Chief Marag.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Council President Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.