



Randolph Town Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, June 5, 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) Natacha Clerger (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (By Zoom), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person).

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor O’Connell.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Announcements from the Council President:

1. Girl Scouts Presentation

This evening we have the pleasure of having Randolph’s Girl Scout Troops present along with their Troop Leaders. We would like to recognize these six young ladies who have been with the Girl Scouts for many years and have participated in numerous Town sponsored events.

Proclamations were presented to Victoria Richards, Sara Dure, Nahlya Hall, Noelani Milford, Jocanda Cabral, and Melissa Johnson.

Councillor Huff-Larmond entered the meeting, in person, at 6:13 PM.

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: This is a continued Public Hearing. Council President Alexopoulos read correspondence from the applicant requesting an additional continuance of the public hearing due to additional meetings being scheduled with the Plan Review Authority. I am going to continue the Public Hearing to the Town Council meeting of September 11, 2023, at 6:15 PM.

2. 6:15 PM: Council Order 2023-025: Authorization By The Randolph Town Council To Petition The General Court To Enact Special Legislation Regarding The Preparation of Certain Bilingual Ballots In The City Known As The Town Of Randolph

Town Council Clerk read the legal advertisement which was published in the Patriot Ledger on May 27, 2023. Councillor Huff-Larmond and Councillor Gordon provided an explanation of the purpose of this Council Order.

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

Joe Burke, Hills Street: Will it be on one ballot of separate ballots? Council President Alexopoulos: We're not sure about those logistics right now.

Sandy Cohen: I want to congratulate Councillor Huff-Larmond and Councillor Gordon on proposing this ballot. We know the Town is diverse and we may be inadvertently excluding some residents from voting and this will help people feel comfortable with voting. This is a very positive step in the right direction.

The Council President closed the public comments portion of the meeting and opened the floor for Council comments.

Councillor Clerger: I will be abstaining from this vote. I wish my colleagues would have consulted with me regarding this ballot. Being Haitian myself, I know that many Haitians may speak in Haitian Creole but we don't learn to read and write in Haitian Creole. We learn to read and write in french.

Councillor O'Connell: What is the difference between fixing this at the federal level versus the state level? Councillor Gordon provided an explanation.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: What were the other towns you referred to? Councillor Gordon: We picked the Town's Boston, Somerville, Brockton, Chelsea, and Lowell. The idea is that anyone who wants to participate, can do so.

Councillor Brewer: I think this is a great idea. We want people to be able to understand what they're voting on so if this makes it more convenient to make that happen, then we should submit it to the legislature.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-025 as presented made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-1 (Absent: Burgess and Egan; Abstention: Clerger)

Motion Passes.

Public Comments:

Sandy Cohen, Bittersweet Lane: I'd like to thank the Town for sponsoring the Covid boosters at Town Hall. They are available on Thursdays from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM people of a certain age can receive a free Covid booster. I hope residents will participate in the program. Secondly, I'd like to thank the Randolph Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coalition for sponsoring the Pride Flag raising. Lastly, if there are any changes made on the Town Council schedule it would be appreciated if that could be communicated to the public.

Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: A question was asked regarding how ballots would be put together.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2023-030: Authorization and Approval for Addendum to Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Town of Randolph and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local #34 (“Superior Officers’ Union”) and Addendum to Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Town of Randolph and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local #18 (“Patrol Officers’ Union”)

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-030. Town Manager Howard provided additional information about the Council Order.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-030 as presented made by Councillor O’Connell, seconded by C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion Passes.

2. Council Order 2023-031: Transfer of ARPA Revenue Loss Funds

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-031. Town Manager Howard provided additional information about the Council Order.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-031 as presented made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

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

Motion Passes.

3. Council Order 2023-032: FY2023 Revolving Fund Increase Spending Authorization

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-031. Town Manager Howard provided additional information about the Council Order and explained he will be withdrawing this Council Order from being introduced today, and will be reintroducing it at the next meeting of June 12, 2023 with an amendment.

4. Council Order 2023-033: FY2024 Revolving Funds Spending Authorizations

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-033. Town Manager Howard provided additional information about the Council Order.

Town Manager Howard requested to raise the immunization spending limit to \$150,000. This is to make sure that next year we would have spending auth limits that would have enough to also supply flu shots with covid shots.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-033 as presented made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion Passes.

5. Council Order 2023-034: Transfer of ARPA Revenue Loss Funds - Cyclical Inspections

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-034. Town Manager Howard provided additional information about the Council Order.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-034 as presented made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

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

6. Council Order 2023-035: FY23 Budget Transfers

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-035. Town Manager Howard provided additional information about the Council Order.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-035 as presented made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Correspondence:

1. Council President Alexopoulos: The Town Council will have a Special Council Meeting on June 12, 2023 and June 20, 2023 for the operating budget. There may be other items carried over into those meetings.
2. Invitation to Randolph's Teen Art Gallery Installation taking place on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at Turner Free Library.
3. The Randolph Fire Department extended an invitation to the Town Council for their annual Firefighter Memorial Sunday taking place at Firefighter Headquarters, 10 Memorial Parkway at 10:00 AM.

Subcommittee Reports:

Human Services/Seniors/Recreation Subcommittee: Councillor Gordon provided an update: We've made progress on holiday lights. There will be another meeting to continue discussing this. The Petition for a Mobility Hub will also be on the June 12th, 2023 meeting, and the public may attend.

Ordinance Subcommittee: Councillor Clerger provided an update. We will be meeting soon.

Open Council Comments:

Councillor Brewer: 1. Randolph Day is on June 10, 2023 from 12-4 PM. There will be a foam party, face painting, and lots of community tables. 2. Summer reading programs are around the corner so make sure you sign up. 3. Join us at Powers Farm for a Find Your Voice event to show your pride at a family-friendly event. Please visit the Randolph Intergenerational COMMUNITY Center website for more information.

Councillor Clerger: 1. Haiti has been unlucky with mother nature. My heart is with the people of Loagan which is a few Towns away from the Country Capital. There was a flood over the entire town and alot of people have lost their lives and homes have been lost. If anyone wants to help, reach out to the pastors of any Haitian Church.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. I would like to ask Councillor Clerger what items are needed for donation? 2. Congratulations to the 2023 graduates of Randolph High School. 3. We had our Progress Pride Flag Raising last Friday. It was wonderful. 4. We will have a Juneteenth celebration at Powers Farm, with lots of activities, a DJ, and more. 5. The High School internship program will be happening this summer. The Town Manager and I are working on making sure we can fund the internships and will be sending out more information. 6. The Randolph Community Partnership, Inc. Gala was great. We got to honor our Town Manager Brian Howard with an award. 7. Memorial Day was great. Thank you to Kevin Cook and Mr. Williams for putting it all together. 8. Happy 18th birthday to my son!

Councillor Gordon: 1. The Finance Subcommittee of the Town Council is involved in the process in which we vote on the budget. The budget process needs a little work. I believe the budget was posted last week on the Town's website. I'd like to request five new positions for the towns. I'd like to see three new staff for the Department of Public Works, a Grant Writer, and an Assistant Town Manager. I don't think most of those have made their way into the town budget. We have a very compressed process because of the timing. I think next year we should make it less compacted. I think the public's input is more important than my input. 2. On Randolph Day, there will also be a band concert at Stetson Hall.

Councillor O'Connell: 1. I want to thank Council Vice President Richard Brewer for mentioning the loss of my mother in law. It meant alot to my family. 2. Thank you to C. Alexopulos for his speech at the Memorial Day ceremonies. It was a nice time honoring those who served. 3. I had the pleasure of attending the Randolph High School Graduation Ceremony. I noticed a lot of students going to the armed forces. I am proud of all of our students. 4. It's almost time for the Night Before the Fourth Parade. Every year we have an honorary mayor and I've made it public that I am behind Bosco Burke. He comes to all our events at Town Hall and he deserves to be our honorary mayor.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Burgess and Egan)
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.