



Randolph Town Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, September 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Chapin Hall, Randolph Town Hall

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

Please note that this Town Council Meeting will be video and audio recorded and will be broadcast, including over local cable and the internet. Any person, upon entering a council meeting or hearing for any purpose, including the purpose of participating, viewing, listening or testifying, grants permission to the Town Council to record and televise or otherwise publish their presence and testimony. Public comments shall only be provided in person and shall not be provided remotely.

Call to Order: Council President Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James Burgess (In-person), Natacha Clerger (In-Person), Ryan Egan (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 Councilor Burgess.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: None

Announcements from the President:

Council President Alexopoulos welcomed the new Clerk to the Town Council, Emily Lorgeree. He noted that there was great turnout for the recent suicide awareness and prevention event.

Presentations: None

New Business:

The Council President proposed that the Council take some of the New Business items out of order. Hearing no objection, the Council President turned to Council Order 2025-074.

1. Council Order 2025-074: Acceptance of Board of Registrars' Recommendation for In-Person Early Voting For Fall 2025 Local Election.

The Council President welcomed Town Clerk Cheryl Sass. Clerk Sass gave a brief overview of the proposal stating that this is consistent with how the Town has historically handled in-person early voting. Clerk Sass also noted the dates and times that are available for early voting, with October 25th being the last day to be able to register to vote.

There was a brief discussion by the Council.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-074 as presented was made by Vice President Brewer, seconded by Councilor Egan.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2025-073: Acceptance of Gift of Historical Materials.

The Town Attorney, Christine Griffin, and Councilor Burgess provided a brief summary of this Order. Councilor Burgess has some historic materials related to Randolph that he would like to donate to the Town.

A brief description of the items was provided.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-073 as presented was made by Councilor Egan, seconded by Councilor Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1 (Abstention: Burgess)

Motion passes.

**3. Council Order 2025-069: Request to Initiate Amendments and Recodification to Chapter 200, the Town of Randolph Zoning Ordinance, and
Council Order 2025-070: A request for the Town Council to Amend the Zoning Map for parcels on Stackpole Ave and Oak Street.**

The Council President welcomed Town Planner, Michelle Tyler. Town Planner Tyler provided an overview of these Council Orders. As the Council is aware, Council Order 2025-069 is a project that the Planning Board has been working on to amend and recodify the Town Zoning Ordinance. This Zoning Ordinance will require two meetings and a public hearing before the Town Council and also needs to be referred to the Planning Board. This Council Order initiates the Amendments and Recodification to Chapter 200, the Town Zoning Ordinance.

Town Planner Tyler also spoke on Council Order 2025-070, which is a proposal to change the Zoning Districts for certain parcels on Stackpole Avenue and Oak Street. If the Zoning change is approved, the parcel size requirements will go from 16,000 sq. ft. to 12,000 sq. ft. This would match the zoning requirements for the properties surrounding Stackpole Ave and Oak Street.

This Zoning Amendment will also require two meetings and a public hearing before the Town Council, and also needs to be referred to the Planning Board.

Motion to take collective action on Council Orders 2025-069 and 2025-070 by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Egan.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Motion to refer Council Order 2025-069 and 2025-070 to the Planning Board and the Ordinance Subcommittee was made by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Public Hearings:

The Council President opened the Public Hearings on Council Order 2025-066: Amendment of the Traffic Rules and Regulations of the Town of Randolph Regarding Traffic Calming Measures and Council Order 2025-067: Amendment to the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph To Add Chapter 70 Concerning Annual Salaries For Elected Town Officials. The Council President indicated that we will start with Council Order 2026-066. The Public Hearing on Council Order 2026-067 will take place thereafter.

1. Council Order 2025-066: Amendment of the Traffic Rules and Regulations of the Town of Randolph Regarding Traffic Calming Measures

Council Order 2025-066 was introduced during the previous Town Council Meeting. It is scheduled for a public hearing and is available for a vote tonight. Town Attorney Griffin referenced the legal ad published in the Patriot Ledger on September 23, 2025. Council Order: 2025-066 is an amendment to the Town of Randolph Traffic Rules and Regulations. Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing and opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Sandy Cohen, Bittersweet Lane; asked about the implementation method regarding the speed bumps as well as if they will be rotated. President Alexopoulos stated the Police will be using statistics to find the high traffic areas. Town Manager Brian Howard stated that the Police Chief and DPW will be working to find the best policies for speed bumps as well as the process of rotation, if we do that. Rotating the speed bumps will require more labor and signage. Town Manager Howard mentioned there will be a form residents can fill out to request these speed bumps as part of the data collection process. Ms. Cohen requested that residents stay informed on the status of the placement.

Guerline Semerzier, 16 Mill Street; happy to hear of the implementation since there is high traffic on Mill Street. He believes data would be the best process for implementation. He brought up concerns about racial profiling by Police Officers as part of the speed bump implementation. President Alexopoulos stated that he is not going to have discussion on that topic at this time. The manner in which it will be implemented will be overseen by the Town Manager and Police Chief and is not something that the Council handles.

Joe Burke, 54 Hill Street; asked if we still use our safety officer and if he should be involved in this? President Alexopoulos indicated that we do use a safety officer and that they will be consulted.

There were no further public comments from the audience. The public comments portion of the public hearing was closed. The discussion was opened up to the Council.

Motion to Amend Council Order 2025-66 to read “Temporary Speed Bumps. Temporary, movable speed bumps may be deployed and utilized in the Town of Randolph at appropriate locations, for a period of time, as determined by the Town Manager, in consultation with the Police Chief and the DPW Director, or their designees, in conformity with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.” made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Councilor Clerger asked about painting the roads, which is cheaper and a quick remedy. Some money was previously appropriated as part of a traffic study. Councilors will follow up with Town Manager Howard to see if and how much funding was appropriated.

Councilor Huff-Larmond asked about reviewing policies that we have set in place previously.

Councilor Burgess mentioned that DPW Director Neil McCole has a list of projects that he is working on currently. Councilor Huff-Larmond requested a list of ongoing projects he is currently working on/planning.

Councilor Gordon made a motion to amend the language in Council Order 2025-066 from “may” to “shall” and to add the Town Council to the list of those to be consulted in Council Order 2025-066. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Councilor Huff-Larmond asked where the data will come from and are the residents opinions being considered. Town Manager Howard did mention that residents will be heard and that data collection can be collected by laying cables in the roads.

Councilor O’Connell is in agreement with Councilor Burgess’ amendment and believes the Town Council will be able to help residents get their concerns heard.

Councilor Clerger repeated her recommendation to have the streets painted while the data collection and placement is sorted out. She also believes that the Town employees should be the decision makers and leave the Council to be the advocates.

Councilor Thompson said Town Manager Howard should be the point person given that he is easily accessible and responsive.

Councilor Burgess called the question. Councilor Gordon asked if there was a second on his motion from above. However, the question had been called, and it was past the point for a second.

**Motion to Call the Question by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Clerger.
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-2 (Abstentions: Huff-Larmond and Gordon)
Motion passes.**

Councilor Egan expressed concerns over appropriate signage wherever the speed bumps are placed. This could create an issue with nighttime driving and moveable speed bumps if signage is not there. These would be unpleasant to go over in a vehicle if the speed bump is not expected.

Councilor Thompson asked if there was someone who could go through traffic stop data to use as a tool to help with implementation.

The President indicated that the question had been called.

**Motion to approve Council Order 2025-66, as amended by Councilor Burgess, made by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Egan.
Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0
Motion passes.**

New Business (Continued):

**Motion To Take Council Order 2025-071 Out of Order, made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor O'Connell. Council Burgess states that this Order is also traffic related, so we might as well act on these two Orders together.
Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0
Motion passes.**

The Council President announced that the Public Hearing on Council Order 2025-067: Amendment to the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph To Add Chapter 70 Concerning Annual Salaries For Elected Town Officials, will be continued until after the discussion on Council Order 2025-071.

4. Council Order 2025-071: Amendment of the Traffic Rules and Regulations of the Town of Randolph Concerning Traffic Calming–Moveable/Temporary Traffic Signs

Motion was made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Egan to amend Council Order 2025-071 to read “Moveable/Temporary Traffic Signs and Devices. Temporary, moveable traffic signs and devices, including but not limited to stop signs and electronic speed limit signs, may be deployed and utilized in the Town of Randolph at appropriate locations, for a period of time, as determined by the Town Manager, in consultation with the Police Chief and the DPW Director, or their designees, in conformity with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.”

**Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0
Motion passes.**

The reasoning behind Councilor Burgess' amendment was to make it consistent with Council Order 2025-066.

Councilor Gordon would like to also add the Town Council to the list of those who are consulted with by the Town Manager. He so moved. This motion was seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

Councilor Huff-Larmond asked Councilor Gordon why he thinks the Town Council should be involved in the decisionmaking process.

Councilor Gordon stated that he believes the public does not feel that they are being heard.

Councilor Huff-Larmond said she does not believe that councilors should be part of that decision making but if people feel they are not being heard, there should be another avenue for that.

As stated with regard to Council Order 2025-066, Councilor O'Connell does not believe that Town Councilors should be part of this type of decisionmaking.

Councilor Clerger stated if the public feels that they are not being heard then we are not doing our job.

Councilor Brewer feels that the Town Council should not be part of the decisionmaking but maybe the Fire Department should also be consulted, since the ambulances and firetrucks will be going up and down these streets and could be affected by the speed bumps and other traffic calming.

Councilor Thompson does not feel having the Town Council involved is proper or correct.

Councilor Gordon withdrew his motion to add the Town Council to the list of parties involved.

Motion was made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Egan, to approve Council Order 2025-071 as amended.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Public Hearings (continued):

- 2. The Public Hearing on Council Order 2025-067: Amendment to the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph To Add Chapter 70 Concerning Annual Salaries For Elected Town Officials, continued after the discussion on Council Order 2025-071.**

Council Order 2025-067 was introduced during the previous Town Council Meeting. It is scheduled for a public hearing and is available for a vote tonight. Town Attorney Griffin referenced the legal ad published in the Patriot Ledger on September 23, 2025. Council Order: 2025-067 is an amendment to the General Ordinances concerning annual salaries for elected officials. Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing and opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Before public comments were made, Councilor Egan asked if the proposed amended version of the Council Order, which is attached to the Agenda, could be introduced. Attorney Griffin described the proposed amended version of the Council Order, which has been numbered as Council Order 2025-067A. Key differences include the removal of the stipend for chairs of subcommittees and for the Town Council's School Committee Representative, the removal of the cost of living adjustment, the stipend for President and Vice President was moved to the first section, and language was added that this Ordinance may not be amended during the final two months of a Town Council term.

The Council President invited public comments on this proposed Ordinance Amendment.

Joe Burke, 54 Hill Street, expressed concerns over a tight budget season and that this money will have to come out of other budgets to fund the salaries for the Council members.

Tina Fegan, Maple Ave; happy to see a full board. Being a previous School Committee member, she understood that this was community service. She is disappointed to think that the Town Council wants to be paid. Many of the members have been elected multiple times and have never been paid before, why now? She also believes that this leads to an increase in taxes. She was not happy thinking that the Town Council would get more than the School Committee.

D. Paul Ainsley, 151 Bittersweet Lane; Mr. Ainsley feels this opens Pandora's box and is financially irresponsible especially when it comes to pensions and health insurance. Town Councilors are volunteering their time for this service and should not be compensated. Mr. Ainsley shared data from other towns who have voted a similar order and their salaries have been increased greatly. Mr. Ainsley passed around copies of the paper he read from to everyone present at the meeting.

Sandy Cohen, Bittersweet Lane; asked if this will be a ballot question. Sandy believes if people do not show up to the meetings that they should not be paid. She then asked about how many meetings and subcommittee meetings take place each year? She stated that we are always fighting for dollars and that she does think it's right to pay the Council members.

Representative from the IGBO Organization and resident; he is in favor of the order allowing the Councilors to be paid, given the amount of time they give to the community.

The public comments portion of the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Clerger stated that this is \$5,000 for the whole year. She believes this could be an incentive to have more people try to join the Town government. This is more than 28 meetings a year. We work all the time.

Councilor Huff-Larmond asked for clarification on if an attendance requirement was in the original order. She would like to have a discussion on if there should be a meeting attendance requirement and if zoom would count as being present.

Motion was made by Councilor Gordon and seconded by Council Egan to amend the Order by substituting Council Order 2025-067A in place of the prior Council Order 2025-067.

Roll Call Vote: 8-1-0 (Nays: O'Connell)

Motion passes.

Motion was made by Councilor Gordon and seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond to remove the last two sentences in section 70-1, which include the stipend for the Vice President and the President.

Motion was made by Councilor O'Connell and seconded by Councilor Egan to add the \$1500 stipend for the Town Council's School Committee Representative back into the Order.

Councilor Burgess expressed his desire to have all boards meet in person.

Councilor Egan questioned the attendance policy; how and who is going to enforce this?

Councilor Burgess stated that when he took this seat he understood it was not only Monday night meetings but community events as well. What is the definition of meeting and what counts towards attendance?

Council President Alexopoulos stated that tracking hours could open up the opportunity for health coverage and pension plans. If we count dates and times and exceed 18 hours per week, the Councilors could be eligible for health coverage.

Town Attorney Griffin stated that if the \$5,000 stipend goes through, Councilors could petition to join the Norfolk County pension program. However, the GIC, which handles the health insurance for the Town and the State, requires that you work 18.75 hours per week on a regular basis to qualify for health coverage. Randolph elected officials are not deemed eligible by the GIC based on that.

Councilor Clerger shared an example of how she was helping a family in the community which ultimately led to her needing to be present at a meeting via zoom; she asked if this would be considered not doing her job since she was not physically in attendance.

Motion was made by Councilor Huff-Larmond and seconded by Councilor Gordon to require attendance at 80% or more of the Town Council meetings in a year in order to receive the annual stipend.

Motion was made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Egan to take no action on the attendance requirement Motion made by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 7-2-0 (Nays: Gordon and Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

Motion was made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Egan to take no action on the Motion by Councilor O'Connell to add back the \$1500 stipend for the Town Council's School Committee Representative.

Roll Call Vote: 4-4-1 (Yays: Burgess, Clerger, Egan, Alexopoulos; Nays: Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Brewer, Thompson; Abstention: Gordon)

Motion fails

Councilor Gordon asked how many need to say yes in order for a motion to pass. Five votes are needed (a majority). Councilor Gordon asked to change his vote. Town Attorney Griffin stated that after the result is called, and there are new motions on the table, that is generally considered too late to change a vote. The Council President concurred.

Motion was made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Egan to move no action on Councilor Gordon's Motion to remove the last two sentences of Section 70-1, which includes removal of the stipend for the President and Vice President.

Roll Call Vote: 6-3-0 (Nays: Clerger, Gordon, Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

Councilor Egan stated that he supports leaving the stipends in for the President and Vice President since that is what neighboring communities do as well. He also stated that the Council President has to be involved with creating the agendas and meets with our Town Manager. He believes stipends muddy the waters which is why we removed some of these, including the stipend for the School Committee Representative. He wants to leave this up to the voters and supports the Council Order 2025-067A.

Councilor O'Connell mentioned that the School Committee Representative has to do extra work as well, which is his stance as to why he is in favor of the stipend for the School Committee Representative.

Councilor Clerger said that you are present in the community the same no matter what other title you hold. She also brought up the attendance statement from Councilor Huff-Larmond, on whether Zoom meetings should count.

Councilor O'Connell stated that he was very vocal about the School Committee meeting via Zoom, that he is in favor of in-person meetings.

Councilor Gordon expressed that he is not in favor of giving extra salary to the President and Vice President, and if that language stays he would not be in favor of it.

Councilor Gordon asked for information on a public petition to reconsider the ordinance if it is passed, or other motions to reconsider. Attorney Griffin indicated that there is a petition process in the Charter, but that it generally does not apply to topics such as employment or salary. She stated she would review the provision and provide the Council with additional information. She also indicated that any Councilor who votes on the prevailing side of a measure may move to reconsider that measure in compliance with the Council rules.

Councilor Egan called the question and this was seconded by Councilor Burgess.

The Council President noted that there is still a pending Motion to Amend and indicated that the Council would vote on that Motion first.

Motion was re-made by Councilor O'Connell and seconded by Councilor Thompson to amend the Order by adding the \$1500 Stipend for the Town Council's School Committee Representative back into section 70-1 on Council Order 2025-067A.

Roll Call Vote: 5-4-0 (Yays: Gordon, Huff-Larmond, Thompson, O'Connell, Brewer; Nays: Burgess, Clerger, Egan, Alexopoulos)
Motion passes.

Motion was made by Councilor Egan and seconded by Councilor Burgess to approve Council Order 2025-067A as amended.

Roll Call Vote: 8-1-0 (Nays: Gordon)
Motion passes

Public Comments/Discussions:

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hill St; asked if the three minute rule for the public is the same standard for the Councilors? Mr. Burke states he goes to the Town of Randolph meetings as well as Blue Hills Meetings and Norfolk County Retirement Board Meetings. He questioned the attendance of Councilor O'Connell at the last School Committee meeting.
2. Guerlince Semerzier, 60 Mill St; expressed gratitude for the Suicide Awareness and Prevention event. He states the support from the Councilors and Town Manager makes Randolph a great community.
3. Nicole Galvez, 33 Crawford Street; new resident asking about basic services such as registering for elections, paving and snow removal. She gave her contact information to Town Attorney Griffin to follow up with her.
4. Bonney Chibueze, President of Igbo Organization of New England; Accompanied by several other members of Igbo Organization. Thanked the current and past Town Employees, especially Brian Howard and Councilor Clerger. This thanks was due to help with a tax lien while the organization figured out if nonprofits were exempt from certain taxes. They are very happy to be located in Randolph. This organization looks forward to a continued partnership with Randolph.

Mr. Chibueze presented Town Manager Howard with an Award of Excellence for outstanding community engagement.

Mr. Chibueze presented Councilor Clerger with an award for appreciation of her support for their events as well as her communication.

Town Manager Howard spoke. Igbo is a great organization and their events are a wonderful celebration of their culture. We are glad to call Randolph their home.

5. Sandy Cohen, Bittersweet Lane; brought up the Boston Globe article about the high eviction rate in Randolph. Ms. Cohen asked if there was anything the Town was doing to help control rent prices to help lower the eviction rate.

Brian Howard responded, stating that the Boston Globe has since changed the headline on the

article, because it was incorrect. Also, while Randolph does have a high eviction rate it is not the highest in the state. Bridgewater is. The Council indicated that rent is a private market and the Town does not have control over their pricing.

Proclamations: None

Appointments: None

Motions, Orders and Resolutions: None

Old/Unfinished Business: None

Town Managers Report: No updates at this time

New Business (Continued):

5. Council Order 2025-072: Amendment of Chapter 176 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning Vehicles, Junk and Unregistered

This Council Order is being introduced tonight. It is an Ordinance amendment and will be available for a vote at a future meeting.

**Motion made by Councilor Burgess to refer this Order to the Public Safety Subcommittee;
seconded by Councilor Egan.**

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports: None

Open Council Comments:

Councilor Clerger states she was grateful for her award and the team she works with. Stressed that being a Councilor is based on teamwork.

Councilor Gordon asked about what services are available for renters. Asking the Town Manager to create a report on what is available.

Councilor Burgess stated he was disappointed by the comments regarding stereotyping and racial profiling earlier in the meeting when discussing traffic calming measures.

Councilor Brewer thanked Town Manager Howard and the Town staff for the send off for Community Programs Director Elizabeth LaRosee, and also thanked Ira Green.

Councilor Huff-Larmond had questions about the accuracy of the reports she has heard about the

depletion of the Resiliency Fund. Town Manager Howard did confirm that the fund has been depleted.

Councilor Huff-Larmond stated that the Suicide Awareness event on Friday was touching and appreciates everyone who testified. The Brave Space event is going on October 10th at The First Congressional Church. Councilor Huff-Larmond spoke on racial profiling, saying that the speaker did not have ill intentions and that racial profiling does still exist.

Councilor O'Connell started by welcoming the new Council Clerk. He then thanked Councilor Huff-Larmond and the Police Department for helping with the Suicide Prevention and Awareness event, it was a moving event. I was happy to see the Igbo Organization today and look forward to more of their events. Councilor O'Connell clarified the information regarding his attendance at School Committee meetings, which was questioned earlier during Public Comments; Councilor O'Connell stated that he was at the workshop meeting last week, which was not televised.

Councilor Thompson spoke on the rent concerns that had been discussed at the meeting. The Town Manager and Social Workers in Town are a helpful tool and provide good resources. He also brings up that these apartment complexes are sending eviction notices after tenants are as little as two days late, nevermind the termination of gas and electricity from National Grid and Eversource. Councilor Thompson says these property companies that have headquarters in other states are not here to keep up with the repairs the buildings need. All these large scale apartment complexes also charge approximately the same rent which decreases the competition.

Executive Session:

The following was read into the record:

The Town Council may vote to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 30A, section 21(a)(3) relative to potential litigation strategy concerning PFAS-related litigation. M.G.L. ch. 30A, section 21(a)(3) permits a public body to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

The Chair did so declare.

Council President Alexopoulos requested a vote for the Town Council to enter into Executive Session.

Motion to enter into executive session made by Councilor Egan, seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-1-0 (Nays: James Burgess)

Motion passes.

The Council President announced that the Council would enter the Executive Session and would not be returning to public session after the Executive Session. The public portion of the Town Council meeting concluded, and the Council entered into an Executive Session, at 8:54 PM