



Randolph Town Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, April 1, 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: Chris Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James F. Burgess, Jr. (In-Person), Ryan Egan (Via Zoom), 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 Gordon.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting May 23, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting on May 23, 2022, made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 4-0-3 (Abstention: Egan, O’Connell, Thompson; Absent: C. Alexopoulos, W. Alexopoulos)

Motion passes.

2. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting March 18, 2024

Councillor C. Alexopoulos entered the meeting, in-person at 6:06 PM.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting on March 18, 2024, made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-1 (Abstention: Egan; Absent: W. Alexopoulos)

Motion passes.

Announcements from the President:

1. Appointment of Town Accountant/Finance Director Contract Negotiation Subcommittee

The Council President has appointed Christos Alexopoulos, James Burgess, and Brandon Thompson to serve on the Contract Negotiation Subcommittee. Councillor Burgess requested a copy (by email and paper copy) of the latest contract.

Town Attorney Griffin announced two upcoming meetings: a Special Town Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 5:30 PM and a Joint Town Council and Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:00 PM.

Public Hearings:

Motion to move the public hearing for Council Order 2024-013 to the first order of business after the public hearing for Council Order 2024-010.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent during vote: Egan; Absent: W. Alexopoulos)

Motion passes.

1. 6:15 PM: Council Order 2024-010: Randolph Public Schools FY24 Capital Improvement Projects

Council Order 2024-010 was introduced in the Town Council meeting on March 4, 2024, and the public hearing was opened on March 18, 2024. Council Vice President Brewer opened the continued public hearing for this matter. The legal advertisement was placed in the Patriot Ledger on March 13, 2024. Randolph Public School Superintendent Thea Stovell (Ms. Stovell) and School Facilities Director Paul Visconte (Mr. Visconte) were present to discuss the various projects to be completed through the Capital Improvement Plan and answer any questions.

School Facilities Director Paul Visconte presented a slideshow including a priority list of the various capital projects for the Randolph Public School Department.

Councillor Huff-Larmond asked about the bidding process for obtaining contractors to work on the projects and how we can encourage minority and women-owned businesses. We should go beyond what we are used to doing for this process in hopes of broadening our audience. Mr. Visconte: We encourage everyone to participate in the bidding process.

Councillor Burgess asked about the roofing and maintenance of schools.

Councillor O'Connell: Why aren't we redoing the high school roofs instead of just doing more patchwork? School Committee Member Mr. Jamie Ackles: This dollar amount includes more than just patching, like downspouts. Additional discussion amongst the Council and School Department was held regarding the roof work done for the high school.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: how long will this be controlled through this method of repair? Mr. Visconti: these projects have a ten-year warranty.

Motion to move the question of Approval of Council Order 2024-010 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-0 (Nays: Huff-Larmond and O'Connell; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-010 as presented and to include, as an attachment, the presentation provided on April 1, 2024, and make it part of the record made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Egan.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-1 (Abstention: O'Connell; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

Councillor Gordon proposed scheduling a time for a Joint Town Council and School Committee to discuss various things such as capital improvement projects, the possibility of requesting Massachusetts School Building Authority for funding for a new school, and more.

Public Comments/Discussions

1. Geurlince Semezier, 60 Mill Street, Randolph, MA: As a resident of Randolph and a parent, it is important to consider the requests of the school department because our kids and community deserve better.

Public Hearings (continued)

2. **6:15 PM - Council Order 2024-013: Grant of Location to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. for new Joint or Identical Utility Pole Locations Within the Town of Randolph**

Motion to move the public hearing for Council Order 2024-013 to the next order of business after Public Comments/Discussions due to the National Grid representatives not being available made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Council Vice President Brewer opened the public hearing for this matter. The legal advertisement was placed in the Patriot Ledger on March 23, 2024. Jarad of National Grid presented additional information regarding National Grid's intention to install a stub poll to brace the primary poll going down Stevens Terrace and answer any questions.

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

1. David McDermott, 240 Highland Avenue: There is a tree in my front yard and a large section of it broke down about a year ago. Since then, branches have been falling off. I had a tree company look at the possibility of removing the tree but they explained that the cables have to come off. I don't want it to come down but I also don't want it to endanger our house and the public.

There were no more public comments. The public comments portion of the public hearing was closed. The hearing was opened to the Council for questions and comments.

A discussion amongst the Councillors was held concerning how the wires will be reworked on the pole installation.

Councillor Burgess: It would be within National Grid's best interest to accommodate the motion and remove the tree. Jarad: I will need to check with National Grid on that process because it is my understanding it is not within our right to remove the requested tree.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-013, as delineated in their plan, with the condition that the tree at 240 Highland Avenue be removed down to the stump as well as any guy wires that may have been attached to said tree, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent During Vote: Egan; Absent: W. Alexopoulos)

Motion passes.

Town Manager's Report:

1. I have two appointments I'd like to bring forward to the Town Council. I recommend Geurlince Semezier and Amanda George to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Both individuals have expressed interest and I believe their backgrounds make them a good fit.

Motion to approve the appointments of Guerlince Semezier and Amanda George to the Zoning Board of made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: W. Alexopoulos and Egan)

Motion passes.

2. The Town's Annual Spring Hydrant Flushing program starts tonight. The schedule for which street will be flushed can be found on the Town's website.
3. The annual Rabies Vaccine Clinic is on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Randolph High School parking lot.
4. I attended the Massachusetts Department of Transportation public hearing concerning the Canton Street Bridge. They took questions from the audience. The Canton Street Bridge will be unavailable from April 5th through April 8th and will begin at 8 PM on Friday through 4 AM on Monday. You will not be able to use the highway during this time. The School Department, Police, and Fire departments for both Randolph and Canton have put together a plan to work together through this project.
5. Councillor Huff-Larmond requested an update on the Assistant Town Manager position.
6. Councillor Burgess requested information on when the Town Manager's office received information on the proposal at Lantana, street acceptance requests that have been submitted to the Town Council which have not been put on an agenda, decorative tree grates in North Randolph, an update on renovation to Treasurer/Collector's office, and creating a policy regarding sidewalks throughout the Town.
7. Councillor Gordon requested an update on the report for Chapter 90 Money and Unaccepted Streets as indicated in Council Order 2022-037.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2024-014: Authorization By The Randolph Town Council to Withdraw From Intermunicipal Agreement Concerning Shared Housing Services Office

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-014. Town Planner Michelle Tyler provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Councillor Huff-Larmond asked about the possibility of doing this work in-house.

Motion to approve Council Order 202-014, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent During Vote: Egan; Absent: W. Alexopoulos)

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2024-015: Authorization by the Randolph Town Council to Permit the General Court to Make Edits and Amendments to Proposed Special Legislation Regarding The Disability Retirement of Officer Casey L'Italien

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-015 and provided background information regarding the purpose of this Council Order. The State has requested that we amend some of the language in our Home Rule Petition to make it uniform with other cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-015 to the next Town Council meeting of Monday, April 29, 2024, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: W. Alexopoulos and Egan)

Motion passes.

Correspondence

1. The Randolph Intergenerational Community Center Presents the 3rd Annual All-Ages Spelling Bee on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 1 PM to 3 PM. The deadline to register is today: April 1, 2024! Sign up by clicking on [Randolphicc.com/spelling-bee](https://randolphicc.com/spelling-bee)

Subcommittee Reports:

Councillor Gordon: The Randolph Democratic Town Committee will meet on April 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM to vote on a recommendation for a list of registrars to submit to the Town Council.

Council Comments:

Councillor Gordon: I attended a recent Milton Town Meeting, and spent an hour defending myself on their speed trap. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation wants to install a roundabout at the intersection of Chickatawbut Road.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: Congratulations to Kristin McCarthy was installed as the Exalted Ruler of the Randolph Lodge of Elks for this year. I saw many familiar and new faces. It was great to be able to present Kristin with a proclamation on behalf of the Council and the Town.

Councillor Thompson: The work on Canton Street will be done this week and it is an 11-mile detour so be sure to plan your commutes accordingly.

Councillor O'Connell: Congratulations to Motivation Church for their Easter Sunday Service this past Sunday. They hosted it at Randolph High School and it was filled. They need a larger space so if anyone knows of any potential places they can move to please contact them. Happy Easter to all who celebrate.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: In honor of Black History Month, Delta Sigma Sorority Incorporated is hosting a program at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center. You will be expected to either create an art or write a five-minute speech about black history. Randolph Youth Council is having a baby essentials drive soon and will be collecting lots of items. There will be bins available in various Town buildings for all to drop items off. Congratulations to Peggy Montlouis, one of our Town employees, who received an award. Our Congresswoman will be in Town this Wednesday, there is a registration link available online.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: W. Alexopoulos and Egan)

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.