



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 06, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Town Hall - Chapin Hall - 41 South Main Street Randolph, MA
02368

AGENDA

This is a hybrid meeting. The public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access. This meeting is being posted pursuant to the state statute authorizing temporary remote participation as described here:

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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.

A. Call to Order - Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance

B. Moment of Silent Prayer

C. 2025 Council President and Vice President Elections

D. Appointment of 2025 School Committee Representative

E. Swearing In of Newly Elected Officials

F. Approval of 2025 Town Council Meeting Dates

G. Approval of Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting November 25, 2024

2. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting December 9, 2024

H. Announcements from the President

I. Public Comments/Discussions

Public Comments shall only be provided in person and shall not be provided remotely.

J. Proclamations

K. Appointments

L. Motions, Orders, and Resolutions

M. Town Manager's Report

N. Old/Unfinished Business

O. New Business

P. Correspondence

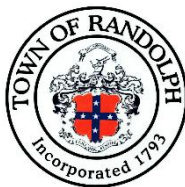
Q. Committee Reports

R. Open Council Comments

S. Adjournment

Notification of Upcoming Meeting Dates

January 27, 2025



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, November 25, 2024, at 5:30 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 Brewer called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James Burgess (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person)

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor Clerger.

Moment of Silent Prayer: 1. Joseph W. Marotta, Jr. passed away on November 7, 2024. Joe was originally from Randolph and is a cherished and respected member of the community. Joe was a man whose life was marked by kindness, faith, and selfless dedication to his family and work. 2. Karl D. Wells passed away on November 18, 2024. Karl's life was a testament to love, hard work, and community spirit.

Councillor O'Connell and Councillor Huff-Larmond entered the meeting, in-person, at 5:40 PM.

Councillor Burgess made a motion to start with the presentation by the EPA and DEP concerning Baird McGuire Superfund Site, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

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

Motion passes.

Councillor Thompson entered the meeting, in-person, at 5:45 PM.

Presentations:

1. Presentation by EPA and DEP concerning Baird McGuire Superfund Site

Project Manager, Chris Kelly, provided a presentation regarding the Baird McGuire superfund site. Mr. Kelly explained the site history and background, and the current site status. Planned work for 2025 includes: continue post-pilot test maintenance and reporting, continue pilot-test-specific groundwater surface water monitoring, continue established long term monitoring program, continue GWTP maintenance activities.

2. Presentation of proclamations to Jill Hall, Anne Coolidge Masse, Thomas Tran, and Peggy Montlouis

Leader and Organizer of the Keep Randolph Beautiful Team, Jillian Hall provided a presentation regarding the purpose of Keep Randolph Beautiful. Some of their accomplishments include: 2. collecting cleanup supplies donated by citizens, eight group cleanups held, and 276 bags of litter

collected! Keep Randolph Beautiful continues to seek Town support by attending cleanup events, promoting the Keep Randolph Beautiful events, enforcing litter ordinances, working with Randolph Schools to implement community service hours for their students, and investing in improved trash receptacles.

A Proclamation was given to Jill Hall, Anne Coolidge Masse, Thomas Trans, and Peggy Montlouis for their outstanding work.

Ryan Egan entered the meeting, via Zoom.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM: Public Hearing and Vote on FY2025 Tax Classification

Town Council President Brewer opened the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Classification. The Town Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisement that was published in the Patriot Ledger on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Principal Assessor Janet Teal and consultant Nate Cramer presented options regarding the tax rates. The purpose of this presentation is for the Town Council to decide on a single or split tax rate, whether to adopt open space discount, whether to adopt residential exemption, and whether to adopt small commercial exemption. The presentation further covered prior year tax rates, prior year tax shifts in the residential factor, and the projected average increases in tax bills depending on which shift is adopted by the Council this year.

Council President Alexopoulos opened the Public Comment portion of the Public Hearing.

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: I'd like to see you hold the shift at 1.75 because we have the new school and water treatment plant that are new builds so we're going to need money set aside.
2. Geurlince Semezier, 60 Mills Street: I hope you consider keeping the rate at 1.75 and consider the residents that cannot afford to pay more.

There were no additional public comments.

Motion made by Councillor Burgess to adopt a commercial exemption, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Passes.

Motion made by Councillor Burgess not to adopt a residential exemption, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Passes.

Motion made by Councillor Burgess to adopt open space exemption, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 3-5-1 (Nays: Alexopoulos, Burgess, Egan, Huff-Larmond; O'Connell; Abstention: Clerger)

Motion fails.

Motion made by Councillor Councillor Burgess for a tax rate shift of 1.73, seconded by Councillor Discussion: Councillor Burgess: I want people to remember that it is the type and quality of a

business that will benefit Randolph. Attracting a business for business' sake will not do it for us.

Councillor Clerger: I was leaning more towards a shift of 1.74. I am always against raising the taxes for our residents.

Motion to amend the 1.73 tax shift to 1.75 made by O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 4-5-0 (Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell)

Motion fails.

Motion to amend 1.73 to 1.74 made by Gordon, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 4-5-0 (Thompson, Egan, Burgess, Brewer, Alexopoulos)

Motion fails.

Roll Call Vote on the main motion for a tax rate shift of 1.73.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-1 (Abstention: Clerger; Nays: Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2024-061: Acceptance of Local Option Statute M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 13D Concerning Reserve Fund for Payment of Accrued Liabilities for Compensated Absences

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-061 and was joined by Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order. Town Attorney Griffin referenced the legal advertisement which was published in the Boston Herald on November 20, 2024.

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: Where is that money coming from?

There were no more public comments. The Council President closed the public comments portion of the public hearing and opened the floor for comments of the Council.

Councillor Huff Larmond: How much is the Town spending on these expenses?

Councillor Gordon: So when departments have retirees, they are hit with a large burden that is unpredictable. So the bottom line is they will no longer have this unexpected burden.

Councillor Clerger: So this is like a safety net if an employee decides to leave?

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-061 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

3. 6:15 PM: Council Order 2024-062: Appropriation of Funds to the Reserve Fund for Future Payment of Accrued Liabilities for Compensated Absences Due Employee of Town Upon Termination of Employment Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 13D

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-062 and was joined by Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order. Town Attorney Griffin referenced the legal advertisement which was published in the Boston Herald on November 20, 2024.

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: Where is this money coming from? If the employee passes away, does the money go to their spouse? Town Attorney Griffin: It would go to their Estate.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-062 as presented made by Councillor Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Clerger.
 Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0
 Motion passes.

Old/Unfinished Business:

1. Council Order 2024-060: Establishment and Funding of FY2025 Reserve Fund

Council Order 2024-060 was introduced at the Town Council meeting on November 18, 2024. Town Manager Howard provided a brief explanation regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-060 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Alexopoulos.
 Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0
 Motion passes.

Public Comments:

1. Becki Robitaw, 42 Woodlawn Road: I'd like to express my condolences to the Alexopoulos family for the loss. I had a question regarding the exemption. I know the appropriation of funds, when someone retires, is there a need for them to give an advance notice like six months to a year?
2. Jamie Ackles, 32 Richard Road Road: 1. Congrats to the Blue Devils Football team. It's their second year going to the super bowl. The superbowl will be in Gillette Stadium on December 6, 2025 at 6 PM. 2. There was talk about the clean-up crew. We are also requiring students to have volunteer hours so we'll work with our student leadership to help that team out. 3. I'm here as an individual member of the school committee and do not represent the opinions of the entire committee. In watching the last Town Council meeting, there was a lot of discussion around the budget process free cash and I want to share insight on this that I have been a part of the School Committee and Finance Subcommittee. With potential federal changes in school funding, we're probably going to see a ripple effect on the State Level and we may need to do something with our state officials to start pushing for more of a needs based allocation when it comes to funding. With the 5% budget increase received by the schools, it still resulted in 40 positions being eliminated at our schools. I'm hoping for a little bit more collaboration as it relates to our budget process.

Town Manager's Reports:

1. Town Manager Howard explained the process for budgeting the School department funds.
2. Town Manager Howard provided an update regarding the Unidirectional Flushing Plan and recent water issues that have taken place in the Town. Department of Public Works Superintendent Neil McCole joined Town Manager Howard to provide additional information regarding the recent work that has been done on the piping systems.

Correspondence:

1. Department of Public Utilities - Notice of Filing and Public Hearing: The Department of Public Utilities will host four public hearings to receive comments on Eversource Energy's petition seeking approval of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2025-2027. For additional information regarding the public hearings, you may visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/energy-efficiency-dockets-and-filings>
2. Winter Wonderland 2024 - December 14, 2024 from 3-6 PM at Crawford Square.

Announcement from the President:

1. There is a joint meeting of the Town Council and School Committee to vote on the applicants for the vacant School Committee seat on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM.
2. Our annual year-end party will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 6 PM at the RICC.

Council Comments:

1. Councillor Gordon: I will report on the Small Business and Real Estate Subcommittee: We discussed the PFAS Resolutions and testing of PFAS.
2. Councillor O'Connell: Thank you to DPW for their road work in District One.
3. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Randolph Youth Council has a new president and vice president. We are starting to think about next year as this year comes to an end. 2. I had a great time at the Randolph Police Department's Centennial. I was really impressed with the event. The video made me really proud to be a Randolph resident.
4. Councillor Gordon: I commend the Randolph Police Chief for accomplishing making the Randolph Police the model for all the surrounding towns in terms of service but in terms of affirmative action as well. Happy Thanksgiving to all!
5. Councillor Clerger: I am proud of us for a smooth meeting tonight. ON behalf of CONCERNED Citizens of Randolph Team, I want to express our sympathy to the Wells family who was an aly. Mr. Wells and his friends would step up and keep the program going by providing food to distribute to the community. Thank you to Senator Elect Driscoll for bringing me turkeys to distribute. Thank you to Sargeant Ryan Kinnon who has done such a great job with the black tie event at the Randolph Police Departments Centennial Gala.
6. Councillor Alexopoulos: On Saturday December 7, 2024 we have the North Randolph Tree Lighting Celebration at 4:30 PM at Milton Monument. It will be hosted by myself and the North Randolph Business District. Tree Lighting will take place at around 5:30 PM. Chief Marag and Randolph Police Department thank you for hosting a wonderful event. It was nice to see so many familiar faces. Happy Birthday Sergeant Brewer!
7. Councillor Burgess: North Randolph Tree Lighting Event is taking place Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 4:30 PM. We will miss Bill and Shamus will be missed this year. 1048 Grill has volunteered to step up/
8. Councillor Brewer: I'd like to commend the police Department on the 100th Year Gala. It was professionally done.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Clerger.
 Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Egan, Huff-Larmond, Thompson)
 Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, December 9, 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 President Brewer called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James Burgess (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (Via Zoom), Ryan Egan (Via Zoom), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (In-Person).

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

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held in remembrance of Gloria Fox, a Representative for the 7th Suffolk District for many years.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2024-063: Acceptance of Gift from Fernandes Foundation to the Town of Randolph

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2024-063. Ms. Fernandes and her daughter, Christy Arnold were present to provide additional information regarding this gift.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-063 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to vote on both meeting minutes of October 28, 2024 and November 18, 2024 jointly made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting on October 28, 2024 and November 18, 2024 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Motion passes.

Public Hearings:**1. 6:15 PM - Council Order 2024-052: A Request to amend the zoning ordinance for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)**

Council President Brewer opened the public hearing for Council Order 2024-052. The Town Council Clerk read the legal advertisement that was published in the Patriot Ledger on November 23 and November 30, 2024.

Town Planner Michelle Tyler provided a presentation regarding the zoning amendment concerning Accessory Dwelling Units.

1. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: What happens to the houses that already have an inlaw apartment within it? Ms. Tyler: They would have to come into compliance with the current zoning ordinance in order to be legitimate. Ms. Cohen: And then would the taxes be the same? Ms. Tyler: These are not separate lots so its not a separate tax bill. It would be no different than your garage but someone lives in it.
2. Joe Burke, 54 Hill Street: Will they need separate water meters and electrical boxes? Would they pay two separate trash fees? Ms. Tyler: There may be changes.

The public comments portion of the public hearing will remain open.

Councillor Gordon: I think an FAQ would be extremely helpful to have on the website. 2. I want to ask about which types of homes are eligible.

Councillor Clerger: An EDU needs to be on the property of the primary home. Ms. Tyler: Only the homeowner can make the request for the amendment on the property.

Councillor Alexopoulos: Could you reiterate what you said about assessing the property afterwards? Ms. Tyler: Anytime there is an improvement to a home, the assessor will assess the property and it will change the value of the property. Councillor Alexopoulos: How many requests do you think you're going to get? Ms. Tyler: The Building department is a little bit anxious about how many requests there would be. It is anticipated there will be many. Councillor Alexopoulos: Legislation states this ordinance is allowed by right but how much control can we retain when it comes to issuing the permit? Ms. Tyler: Size, where, how much land the accessory dwelling unit can cover.

Councillor O'Connell: Is 900 square feet the maximum? Ms. Tyler: It is 50% of the primary dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller. Councillor O'Connell: Would you be allowed to split it up? Ms. Tyler: One is allowed by right, if you want an additional one then you have to apply for a special permit. Councillor O'Connell: Can businesses do it? Ms. Tyler: This is only for residential lots.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: This is increasing affordable housing so I think I like this. What is the current parking situation? Single family homes are in need of more than two parking spaces due to the economy and children coming back home. Ms. Tyler: Two spaces per home. Changes to how many parking spaces are allowed can be considered under the zoning recodification that's undergoing.

Motion to continue the public hearing on Council Order 2024-052 to the Town Council meeting on January 27, 2025 at 6:15 PM made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Alexopoulos.
Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent during vote: Egan)
Motion Passes.

Public Comments

1. Sandy Cohen: I would like to invite anyone here and in the community to the Kwanzaa/Hanukkah Celebration on Monday, December 23, 2024 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Randolph Intergenerational Center. Feel free to bring a snack, dish, dessert, or non-alcoholic beverage to share.
2. DEI Coalition: I am here to update everyone on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coalition efforts to advance equity and inclusion in the Town's hiring and retention practices. We would like to express appreciation to Town Manager Howard, and Liz. LaRossee for coordinating updates to the human resources section of the Town website. These updates affirm the Town's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive workplace. We recently learned that the technical assistance program does not have capacity to support the effort so we continue to seek funding and resources to continue to work. I brought up the idea of putting some flashing lights for the crossing areas where the residents are crossing. It is very difficult to see at night.

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2024-002: Resolution in Support of PFAS Testing In and Around the Baird McGuire Superfund Site

Councillor Jesse Gordon introduced Resolution 2024-002 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Resolution.

Motion to take no action on Resolution 2024-002 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Alexopoulos.

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

Motion passes.

Committee Reports:

Councillor Gordon: I would like to discuss a resolution about empowering the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission to seek soil testing for PFAS.

Council Comments:

1. Councillor O'Connell: Winter Wonderland is on Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 3 to 6 PM. There are lots of things happening in the police department, school parking lot so bring your family.
2. Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Hanukkah and Quanza Celebration is on December 23rd at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center. 2. There is a listening session in Plymouth county for women and partners and allies to talk about issues that affect women and young girls 3. Thank you Town Manager Howard for partnering with the DEI Coalition. This is taking place on December 10th at Massasoit Community College.
3. Councillor Gordon: 1. Randolph Foundation for Education will meet Thursday, December 19 for annual scholarships for teachers who fund their own classroom. 2. Randolph Community Band is meeting on December 21, 2024 for a performance at Stetson Hall at 5 PM. 3. The Randolph Democratic Committee is meeting December 10, 2024 for their annual Holiday Party.
4. Councillor Alexopoulos: Thank you to Councillor Brewer for stepping in on behalf of the Late Council President
5. Councillor Burgess: The North Randolph Holiday Tree lighting was great. Thank you to everyone who put it together.
6. Councillor Brewer: 1. The Year-End Party is on December 14 at 6:00 PM 2. If you have not done so, please watch the recent School Committee Meeting to prepare for the upcoming joint meeting with the

School Committee to vote on a new School Committee member. The Joint Meeting is on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7 PM.

7. Councillor Clerger: Thank you to Senator Elect Driscoll for allowing me to serve a lot of turkeys to the community. And thank you to everyone who helped me distribute the turkeys.

Adjournment:

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

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent during vote: Huff-Larmond)

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.