



Joint Meeting of the Town Council and the Finance Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

The public is invited to attend this meeting remotely only, via phone or computer. In order to maintain safe social distancing guidelines, no physical presence will be allowed at this time. The Town website will be updated on the day of the meeting with the phone and computer access instructions.

Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance: Council President W. Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: William Alexopoulos, Richard Brewer, James Burgess, Natacha Clerger, Ryan Egan, Jesse Gordon, and Katrina Huff-Larmond

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

Moments of Silent Prayer: A moment of silent prayer held in remembrance of Randolph Police Officer Michael Beal. Officer Beal was involved in a motor vehicle crash and died from the injuries sustained in the crash. He was a 35-year veteran of the Randolph Police Department, an amazing person, and a friend to all within the department.

Announcements from the President:

1. Discussion of Process for Filling Vacant Town Council Seat

Anyone interested in the vacant Town Council seat can submit a letter of interest and a resume to me by email by 4:30 PM on June 30, 2022. We will consider all applicants at the first meeting in July. Anyone who does not have access to email but would like to submit their name should contact the Town Clerk for assistance. To be eligible, you must be a registered voter in the Town of Randolph and must have lived in District One at the time of the Fall 2021 Town Election, and you must also still be a resident of that district.

Public Hearings:

1. 2022-018 Capital Plan for FY23

Council President Alexopoulos opened the Public Hearing on this Matter. This Council Order was introduced on April 11, 2024, by the Town Manager. Town Manager Howard provided additional information regarding the various projects in this Council Order.

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

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street, asked about the vehicles being requested by the Department of Public Works.
2. Dave Mulligan, 3 Pond Lane, asked if the repaving of Pond Lane is in this request. Town Manager Howard stated that Pond Lane is definitely on the list of Streets to be repaired in this year's plan.
3. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane, asked which of these vehicles are hybrid or electric so they are better for the environment. Town Manager Howard indicated he would speak to the Fire and Police Chief to see what options exist for environmentally friendly vehicles.

Council President Alexopoulos closed the public comments portion of the public hearing and opened the floor to comments and questions of the Council.

Councillor Burgess asked about the Command Vehicle Replacements.

Councillor Huff-Larmond asked about the condition of the Zapustas Ice Rink and if these repairs are enough, and if a list of streets to be repaired through this Capital Plan is available.

Councillor Gordon asked for clarification regarding the Capital Plan budget and the Operating Budget, as well as how operations would work regarding staffing and manning of the new vehicles. Lastly, is the option to borrow the expected additional revenue in Chapter 90 funds to pay back the loan? Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith: That is not allowable.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2023-018 as presented made by Councillor Brewer, seconded by Councillor Egan.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: C. Alexopoulos)

Motion Passes.

New Business:

1. Submission of FY2023 Annual Operating Budget - Budget Presentation

Town Manager Howard presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Operating Budget. Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith was also present to provide additional information regarding the Town's revenues including local receipts, state aid, the tax levy, and other funding sources like indirect costs, revolving funds, etc. Town Manager Howard highlighted some of the key points of this year's Annual Operating Budget such as an increase of funding to the Randolph Public Schools, the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center will be fully open and operational this year, fixed costs such as health insurance and retirement continue to drive the budget, and the hiring of an Assistant Town Manager to focus on Human Resources and Operations.

A discussion was held concerning the hiring process for the Assistant Town Manager position and general operations of the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center.

Council President Alexopoulos: Thank you. We will be discussing the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Operating Budget at a Special Meeting on June 6, 2024.

Open Council Comments

1. Opportunity for Each Councilor to Say Something in Memory of Councilor Clifton

Town Manager Howard read a statement from Councillor C. Alexopoulos. Ken was ever present at Town Events and he spoke what he believed was best for the Town and for us residents. He was an accomplished public servant and political leader. Ken always carried himself like a true gentleman. Rest easy and may God rest his soul.

Councillor Brewer: Like all of in the Community, I have been left saddened by the sudden passing of Councillor Clifton. He was one dedicated public servant and strong supporter of the Randolph Public School and worked tirelessly for his constituents in his district, as well as the rest of Randolph for many years. It was a privilege to work with Ken on the Council and I will miss his knowledge and his presence in the Council.

Councillor Burgess: Councillor Clifton sat here when we created a new form of government. He was a tireless campaigner. He knocked on doors in his district better than most people who ran for office in any Town that I can think of. We did not always share the same viewpoint, but what we did share and would have conversations about this, is his love and respect for the role that he was elected to serve as Town Councillor. He believed that it was a position to help those in the community and to make their voice be represented at the table and he did that effectively. There were many times that we went back and forth and his comments would kind of calm me down and I will forever be grateful for that. He will be missed

Councillor Clerger: I will forever be grateful to Councillor Clifton for challenging me and I will continue to conduct myself in a way that he would not be disappointed in me. With that said, I know he would have been with us at the Haitian Flag Day parade so please come join us on Wednesday, May 18, and we will have a spot to remember him at the flag-raising ceremony.

Councillor Egan: My love, thoughts, and prayers go to Councillor Clifton's family. I think most of us were at his funeral services last week and it was certainly a moving experience. We lost a great advocate for Randolph, no matter what side of an issue you're on, at the end of the day he advocated for Randolph and he did it well. He was a dedicated community leader and is truly irreplaceable.

Councillor Gordon: I'd like to encourage everyone to read the comments on the funeral home page. I was moved by a lot of the comments and gave my condolences there as well as this message. I first met Ken Clifton several years ago, he was the Town Council President, when I first started attending Town Council meetings, and ever since then he has defined for me, what a Town Council President should be. He was poised, attentive, respectful and just the way I view how Town Council Presidents should be ever since.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Ken was a great husband, dad, friend, and mentor to not only me, but to many others that have passed through Town. He will be missed and Randolph now has a huge void I don't know could ever be filled. Ken was an inspiration to all. Let's live out Ken's legacy and the way he would want his legacy to be lived out. He was a Community man. You left a huge footprint here in Randolph and we will miss you.

Town Manager Howard: Councillor Clifton was a great leader. He made me better at what I do and that goes back to when I was a Town Clerk and the Assistant Town Manager, and now as the Town Manager, he made me better because he would challenge you to see things differently. He was passionate, thoughtful, and always prepared. He brought out the best in what local government stripes to be and that is public service. He was truly in service of others. There was one resident that I saw at the repass at Stetson Hall, Bunny Jones who is retired from working in Randolph Public Schools, and she made a comment that said how Ken was such a strong voice for social justice in this community and it wasn't just when Ken was a Town Councillor but before that when he was involved in the Community fighting for those who may not have a voice. And that comment reminded me of my first introduction to Ken about twenty years ago. He always wanted to make Randolph the best it could be. I lived in his district and I would see him driving around during snowstorms checking up on various areas and his neighbors. I will certainly miss what he brought to this Community. My heartfelt condolences to his family,

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: C. Alexopoulos)

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.