



## **Randolph Town Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Monday, April 14, 2025, 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:** Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James Burgess (In-Person), 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 Gordon.

**Moment of Silent Prayer:** Moment of Silent Prayer held in remembrance of longtime Randolph Resident: Noreen (McGrory) Bisset and Dick Martin who was a member of the Library Trustees.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting on March 10, 2025 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Clerger & Egan)

Motion passes.

Councillor Clerger entered the meeting, in-person, at 6:10 PM.

### **Announcements from the President**

1. Over the weekend, we had an Easter Egg Hunt. I believe it was brought inside due to the weather but it went okay.
2. We also had our Annual Spelling Bee. Ours truly, Councillor Gordon was a participant and won 3rd place.
3. I’d like to wish everyone who celebrates a Happy Easter and a wonderful holiday.

### **Motions, Orders, and Resolutions**

1. **Resolution 2025-001A: Concerning Commitment To All Residents of the Town of Randolph**
2. **Resolution 2025-001B: Resolution to All Residents of the Town of Randolph**

Councillor Gordon: This is a resolution that has gone through a process of over two months long. This is our final vote. We call it the Welcoming Town Resolution. It lays out what the Town of Randolph does for a very large immigrant population. What we do is no more and no less than that the law requires. That is not the same as a sanctuary city. We had a very full discussion about that in the Subcommittee where the Police Chief came and discussed it. The Police will not ask you for your immigration status. It is not a sanctuary city which does less than what the law requires. It is not a deputization of ICE agenda which does more than what the law requires.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Councillor Gordon and I authored this resolution because we thought it was important to share with our residents that this is a Town where we are protective of everyone's rights. With a large majority of residents in the Town of Randolph being new to the country, we wanted to make sure that this resolution spoke to our population. Here in Randolph, we want you to know you are welcome. We went to different organizations and individuals to help craft the resolution but also to give important information about their opinion about the resolution. We found overwhelmingly that people were excited and thought it was a good idea to have a resolution that spoke to a large population of residents. Some way this will bring attention to our Town but attention is already on the Town of Randolph because we have such a large population of new neighbors, or immigrants. Thank you to all of those who came forward in support of the resolution.

Town Attorney Christine Griffin read the Resolution 2025-001A.

Councillor Burgess: I had a difference of opinion than the presenters. What we were told is that the welcoming resolution was to welcome our immigrants, making sure that anyone who was here in our community felt that they were safe and they were not going to be unduly pressured by police or law enforcement. Words have meaning and in this resolution, it only references and affects the own Council, its employees, and its volunteers but has not responsibility to the members of the community. In my view, this is saying that the Town, Boards, Councils Commissions, are not holding up their end of the bargain. People who are most affected by what is going on should not be given false hope, or a false sense of security by thinking that a resolution is going to protect them.

Town Attorney Christine Griffin read the Resolution 2025-001B.

Councillor: This says that we are welcoming to all. We acknowledge that we are a nation of immigrants and that if you are a person who is undocumented you should be aware of what's going on. This resolution is not going to protect you. If you need help you should seek that help through your government, and we will do what we can or go to our Town's website where there is a list of agencies that can help.

Motion to continue the public hearings for Council Order 2025-013, Council Order 2025-014, and Council Order 11 until after the previous matter is resolved made by X, seconded by Councillor X.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

Councillor Clerger: It is clear that no matter what, you will not be in favor of this Resolution. This resolution is not misleading. They know this resolution is not a ticket out of jail. If you have a heart, let's vote for this and if it passes it passes.

Councillor Brewer: I'd like to offer an amendment that combines both resolutions that adds the language in Resolution 2025-001B to the bottom of Resolution 2025-001A. I don't think the wording in the resolution is out of line at all. If you accept that amendment, then we can move forward with the resolution.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: The problem with this second resolution is that it is not specific enough to the population. We want to make sure we are talking about a population of individuals who are being targeted every day. We not only want to protect that one population, we want to recognize that population being targeted, feeling unwanted, and feeling targeted. We've made changes to the resolution and we tried to implement the changes enough so it will continue to speak to the population we want to speak to and do what it needs to do.

Additional discussion of the Council was held concerning the language in the Resolutions and clarifying Councillor Brewer's proposed amendment.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-001B made by Councillor Burgess. There was no second. The Motion dies.

Motion to combine Resolution 2025-001A and Resolution 2025-001B made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor Bower.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-0 (Nay: Burgess; Absent: Egan)

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-001C (Resolution 2025-001A and Resolution 2025-001B combined) as presented made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-0 (Nay: Burgess; Absent: Egan)

Motion Passes.

## **Public Hearings:**

### **1. Council Order 2025-013: 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 - Payson Ave**

Council Order 2025-013 was introduced by Town Manager Howard. The Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisement that was published in the Patriot Ledger on April 5, 2025. Jared Akir from National Grid was present to provide additional information and answer questions relating to this pole petition

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

Ira Greene: I'd like to request that you think about taking some of the double polls down.

Victor Rahanna, 15 Payson Ave: I am a neighbor at this location and I did request National Grid to give us a pole across the street because the poll would be too close to our driveway so we would not be able to pull the car in.

There were no more public comments. Council President Alexopoulos closed the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Councillor Burgess: Are there any guy wires on this pole? And any sweeps, will it be metal?

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-013 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent during vote: Huff-Larmond; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

**2. Council Order 2025-014: 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 - South Street**

Council Order 2025-014 was introduced by Town Manager Howard. The Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisement that was published in the Patriot Ledger on April 5, 2025. Jared Akir from National Grid was present to provide additional information and answer questions relating to this pole petition

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public comments portion of the public hearing. There were no public comments. Council President Alexopoulos closed the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Councillor Burgess: Who owns 414 South Street? Are there any guy wires on this pole? And any sweeps, will it be metal?

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-014 as presented made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

**3. Council Order 2025-011: Amendment of Chapter 300 and Chapter 301 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning the Charts of Fines and Fees**

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing on Council Order 2025-011 which was introduced by Town Manager Howard on March 24, 2025. Assistant Town Manager Monica Lamboy was present to provide additional information regarding this Council Order, including the specific amendments/changes made to this ordinance.

Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: Can you please go through what the changes and increases are? If I have a dead animal in front of my property, but it's not my animal, why do I have to pay for it to be removed? What do you do when there is a snowstorm and cars are parked, who calls the police department if they are in the way of the plows? Assistant Town Manager Monica Lamboy listed the changes made to this Ordinance.

Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: Are there any changes being made to parking in a handicap parking spot without a handicap parking permit? Are these changes going to be published online? Does the May Institute and their associating residents get fined if their employees park overnight on the street?

Ladon Dubose, 569 North Street: What can we do about speeding enforcement here?

Gerulince Semezier, 60 Mill Street: Even though there is a school zone, there are cars speeding constantly.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Let's make sure to publicize this information.

Councillor Burgess: Can we give a refresher course to the relevant department heads so they are aware of these changes?

Motion to amend Chapter 179-3: Within an intersection from \$30 to \$50, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-0 (Nays: Thompson)

Motion passes.

Motion to amend Chapter 179-3: Interfering with Snow Removal from \$15 to \$50; All Night Parking from \$15 to \$40; Double Parking from \$10 to \$30; and Restricted Areas from \$15 to \$50, made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-0 (Nays: Clerger & Thompson)

Motion passes.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-011 as amended made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-1 (Abstention: Clerger; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

#### **Public Comments:**

1. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: 2. I've noticed blue lights attached to poles. Can someone please let me know what that is?
2. Ira Greene: I've lost three friends in the Randolph Police Department in the last three years- two tragically, and one unexpectedly. We have a Police Chief that's been on the job just a little over three years and he's dealt with a lot. He's been dealing with an officer that was injured and the State's given the Town a hard time about retiring. This is a family that has feelings and emotions and I would like the people of Randolph to stand behind them and support them.
3. Ada Bukola, 18 Kennedy Drive: I'm here on behalf of Destiny African Market to invite everyone to DAM FAM Day on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 12-4 PM! We will be having a huge giveaway: there will be an \$8,000 grocery card giveaway providing the first 169 attendees with \$50 gift cards.

#### **Appointments:**

1. Appointment of RRTC to Board of Registrars

Motion to approve appoint James Curtis to serve on the Board of Registrars made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

#### **Town Managers Report:**

1. Randolph Garden Club is conducting a Community Garden survey. The survey is posted on the Town's website. They're looking to see how much interest there would be for a community garden. Link: <https://www.randolph-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3124/Garden-Club-Survey-1?bidId=>
2. Annual Keep Randolph Clean is taking place on Saturday, April 12, 2025. We are meeting at Town Hall.

3. Medical Waste Collection Day is occurring on the same day: Saturday, April 12, 2025 in the Town Hall parking list.
4. DPW Yard Waste Pick-up is starting up. The dates for picks up May 3, May 17, and June 14. Please leave your yard waste outside by 7 AM.
5. Randolph DPW Bulk Waste Drop Off
6. The Randolph Public Health Department is conducting an anonymous survey on Opioid Overdose Prevention. The survey link can be found online: <https://forms.gle/ugFxYaQnN1ujQN2y6>
7. Councillor Huff-Larmond: I'm interested in the Community Garden. That sounds great.
8. Councillor Burgess: Can we look into getting the trees cut before Memorial Day?

#### **New Business:**

- 1. Council Order 2025-012: Authorization and Approval for Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") For New Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Town of Randolph, Massachusetts and Local 877 (Randolph DPW Workers) ("Union")**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-012 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-012 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

- 2. Council Order 2025-017: Transfer of Water/Sewer Retained Earnings to Fund Settled Local 877 (DPW Union) Contract**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-017 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-017 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

- 3. Council Order 2025-015: Request for the Town Council to Initiate An Amendment to the Randolph Zoning Ordinance - Chapter 200 of the General Code of the Town of Randolph - Concerning Scientific or Research Laboratories**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-012 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

This Council Order will be on a future Town Council meeting for a vote.

- 4. Council Order 2025-016: Local Acceptance of M.G.L. Ch. 60, Section 2 Regarding the Abatement of de minimus Tax Balances**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-016 and was accompanied by Town Accountant/Finance Direct to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

This Council Order will be on a future Town Council meeting for a vote.

**5. Council Order 2025-018: FY25 Budget Transfers**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-012 and was accompanied by Town Accountant/Finance Direct to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-018 made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

**6. Council Order 2025-019: Transfer of ARPA Revenue Loss Funds**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-019 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-019 as presented made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

**7. Council Order 2025-020: Transfer from Reserve Fund .**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-020 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-020 as presented made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

**Correspondence:**

1. Curbside Yard Waste Pickup Schedule Spring, 2025: May 3, May 17, June 14 - Leaves and yard waste must be curbside by 7:00 a.m. For more information, contact the Health Dept. at 781-961-0924.
2. There is a tennis youth program being led by Randolph Blue Devils, USTA New England. The program is on Saturdays at different times depending on your age group. There is a link for you to register if you are interested.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

1. Councillor O'Connell: The School Committee Finance Subcommittee is meeting on Thursday. It will not be a deliberation of the Council.

### **Council Comments:**

1. Councillor Clerger: On Friday, May 16, 2025 @ 11 AM there will be Haitian Flag Raising at Town Hall and then noon lunch and prayer service at Stetson Hall. This year's Honoree Haitians are Police Chief Marag and the Grand Master is Town Engineer Jean Pierre Louis.
2. Councillor Gordon: At the Spelling Bee, I lost to a millennial, to the word: millennial! The Randolph Democratic Caucus is this Saturday, April 19, 2025. The doors open at 10:30 AM. The Randolph Foundation for Education received a lot of applications for scholarships this year. We do need help reading them.
3. Councillor Brewer: 1. At the Crawford Square and Burger King parking lot- they have become a pedestrian dumping ground. We don't want to lose the clean-up volunteer groups we have because of this.
4. Huff-Larmond: 1. Randolph Youth Council will be having a presentation and panel discussion on May 24, 2025 on mental health, suicide prevention and substance use. The location is to be determined. 2. Randolph Police Department held a presentation on fraud with Elderly Affairs. 3. South Shore Caribbean Connection will be hosting three different events: flag raising, gospel concert and dinner. 4. There are Pride events at the First Congregational Church on June 28, 2025 from noon to 4:00 PM. 5. Randolph High School is collecting prom dresses.
5. Councillor O'Connell: Thank you to animal control for the rabies clinic. I brought my daughter Stella with me and she was happy to bring her cat to get rabies shot. Thank you to all volunteers. 2. We had an Easter event at the RICC. Thank you too all involved who made the event happen.
6. Thompson: 1. Shoutout to my wife who is participating in an online competition for chefs. The winner gets featured in a magazine and gets a prize. Please vote online if you can. 2. The last 3-4 meetings I've been bringing up the issue of disappearing college students. Another Columbia student who was on his way to the federal building for an internship interview was picked up by ICE. I work at UMass Lowell and at least once a week we've had student's visa revoked.

### **Adjournment:**

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

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.