



Randolph Town Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, June 26, 2023, 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 (Zoom), William Alexopoulos (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (By Zoom), Jesse Gordon (By Zoom), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-person), and Kevin O’Connell (In-Person).

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

1. Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Town Council Finance Subcommittee Meeting of June 12, 2023

2. Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Town Council Finance Subcommittee Meeting of June 20, 2023

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Town Council and Town Council Finance Subcommittee from Meetings on June 12, 2023, and June 20, 2023, made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Brewer, Burgess, and Egan)

Motion passes.

Presentations

1. Zoning Audit Analysis: Planning Director and Barrett Planning Group

Planning Director Michelle Tyler was present with Judi Barrett of the Barrett Planning Group to provide information on the recent Zoning Audit Analysis.

Ms. Barrett: The scope of our work included reviewing zoning ordinances from a technical standpoint instead of a policy standpoint. The review approach consisted of independent review and close reading, interviews, and consultation with Town Staff. The zoning ordinances contain some unusual, conflicting, or duplicative definitions. There is also a lot of “legalese” which can make the text difficult to follow. I recommend categorizing words by definitions.

The Councillors were presented with an opportunity to share their thoughts on the structure, format, and ease of use of the zoning ordinances.

Councillor Egan entered the Town Council meeting, via Zoom, at 6:32 PM.

Planning Director Tyler: Once we have the report from Barrett Planning Group and the comments of the subcommittee, I would suggest that the next step is deciding on a funding source because a codification or even a rewrite is likely to be needed and that definitely surpasses my capacity. We would require the assistance of a consultant because of how involved this could be.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM - Council Order 2023-037: FY24 Randolph Community Preservation Budget and Reserves

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing for this Council Order. The Town Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisement that was published in the Patriot Ledger on June 17, 2023.

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2023-037. This is the annual vote required before July 1st of the fiscal year to appropriate the funds into the listed categories. The individual vote of the CPA projects will be coming sometime later in the summer so this allows us to budget accordingly.

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

Joe Burke, Hill Street: What were the numbers again? Town Manager Howard read the dollar figures listed in the Council Order. Mr. Burke: Are we using any of these funds for salaries? Town Manager Howard: No.

There were no additional public comments. Council President Alexopoulos closed the public comments portion of the public hearing. The public hearing was opened to the Council for comments.

Councillor Gordon: Is it correct that funds not used, are rolled over to the next fiscal year? Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith: The budget reserved is an annual amount. If it is not used by the end of the fiscal year then it closes out just like a budget would. It stays in the Community Preservation Fund but would increase its undesignated fund balance if it is not used. Councillor Gordon: I'd like to make a guide for how to use the CPC funds so there aren't any funds left over.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-037 as presented made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent During Vote: C. Alexopoulos; Absent: Brewer, and Burgess)
Motion passes.

2. 6:15 PM - Council Order 2023-038: Water and Sewer Enterprise Budget

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing for this Council Order. The Town Council Clerk referenced the legal advertisement that was published in the Boston Herald on June 21, 2023.

Town Manager Howard provided additional information on the Water and Sewer Enterprise Budget. I know there was some confusion during the recent operating budget process that the funds in the water and sewer enterprise budget can be used for other items. I wanted to clarify that funds in the Water and Sewer Enterprise budget can only be used for expenses related to water and sewer.

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

Joe Burke, Hills Street: Are we setting the rates tonight? Town Manager Howard: No, that is done at a later time this summer. Mr. Burke: How many more employees do we pay out of that budget? Town

Manager Howard: There is a ratio that is used on the indirect that includes a certain percentage. Town Accountant/Finance Director Janine Smith: The indirect costs cover things we budget in the general fund. My position would be an example where I spend a fair amount of time analyzing the enterprise fund, analyzing revenue; each of the positions in the treasurer/collector's office collects the bills, and reviews the bills; and certainly, Brian's time in setting policy and procedures. In the indirect cost setting, we take certain positions and a percentage of our salary is paid- so, yes, some salaries are charged that aren't directly water and sewer.

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

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-038 as presented made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Brewer and Burgess)
Motion passes.

Councillor Egan exited the Town Council meeting.

Public Comments/Discussions:

1. Joe Burke, Hills Street: Did we hire the Barrett Planning Group as a consultant already or was that just a presentation? I didn't see it in the budget. Council President Alexopoulos: Yes, that would have come out of the Planning Department's budget. They were hired for the purpose of reviewing our Zoning Ordinances. Mr. Burke: You should think about involving kids since we're adding pickleball courts. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Yes, we just need to find the interest for younger folks to play pickleball. I would also like to see Randolph getting a football league together.
2. Sandy Cohen, Bittersweet Lane: Is there anything in the ordinances about Councillors who miss so many meetings during the calendar year? Is there anything that states you have to attend so many meetings in a year? Council President Alexopoulos: There is nothing in the laws that says they have to attend or not attend any number of meetings. Town Attorney Griffin: To the extent that is a public record request, information about attendance at meetings can be produced through the minutes. Councillor Clerger: We used to have attendance accountability. Can we return back to that? Councillor Huff-Larmond: I don't believe it was something that was done formally.

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions

Councillor Gordon made a motion to reconsider action taken on Council Order 2023-028: Approval of Randolph Citizen Initiative Petition Concerning Mobility Hub: Shuttle Ban Service. I'd like to amend the bus petition to replace the phrase that was controversial two weeks ago which was "implementation by 2025." Councillor Huff-Larmond seconded the motion for the purpose of entering into a discussion.

Council President Alexopoulos read Section 29 of the Town Council's Rules and Regulations concerning Reconsideration.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: I want to know what the purpose of this is. Councillor Gordon: The reason for this is to be able to make a supplemental petition in order to put it on the November ballot. During the vote to approve Council Order 2023-028, the interpretation of the vote was based on the Town Attorney's interpretation versus mine and the petitioner's interpretation and I want to clarify that. I've discussed this with the petitioners and they're not sure if they want to put this on the ballot because they know it is a lot of work but they certainly agreed they want to have the choice. Councillor Huff-Larmond: In the room after the vote, the petitioners clapped following the vote. The public was excited we made a vote regarding what they wanted. As a Councillor who is responsible for this Town, it is not

reasonable to ask a business, government, or even an individual to research and test a product out and not present it to the parties responsible for implementation. I don't know any business that would allow research to take place and then not want to know what the findings show to be able to decide if it's even reasonable.

Councillor Clerger: What is the difference and will this give more power to the voters?

Councillor O'Connell: You asked for a cup of water and we gave you a cup of water but now you're asking for the whole reservoir. I'm happy with the decision we made so I'm not sure I understand where there is confusion.

Council President Alexopoulos: My understanding with this Council Order is that we would do a feasibility study for a mobility hub around the Town of Randolph. There were several residents present who provided comments which the Council took under advisement. Now I hear that you want to reconsider this, add verbiage in order to go obtain additional signatures so that this goes before a ballot in November. As Katrina noted earlier, it seems like you're forcing an issue on the community, on the residents, without understanding the scope or costs of such a project. The Council voted what it did based on the council order that was presented. I am not in favor of reconsidering and will be voting no on this matter and I think you should let it play out. We should obtain all the information and then make a rational decision based on the findings of the feasibility study. I think what you are doing is totally disingenuous and not fair to the Council.

Councillor Gordon: I agree that there should be another vote to go before the Council before this is implemented. By putting this on the ballot, the public would be able to choose. Council President Alexopoulos: The question becomes how the public vote on this intelligently without knowing what the costs are and how it's being funded. Councillor Gordon: The public would be able to show their support for or against. Councillor Huff-Larmond: From the beginning, you and your team gathered signatures, and when we sat here last week, you spoke about how easy it was to get these signatures because this is something the people want. The Council heard that and thought on the fact that this is indeed very much needed by the community. We voted this for the people. I don't see the difference in putting this on a ballot in hopes that the residents vote in favor of the feasibility study which the Council already voted in favor of. I feel like there is something not being said and I don't want to waste people's time.

Councillor Clerger: If there is a chance to give more power to the voters, then I will vote in favor of them.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: I call the question. I ask for a vote on the main motion that was made, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Brewer, Burgess, Egan)

Motion to call the question passes.

Roll call vote on Councillor Gordon's motion to reconsider action taken on Council Order 2023-028: Approval of Randolph Citizen Initiative Petition Concerning Mobility Hub: Shuttle Ban Service, which was seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond: 2-4-0 (Nays: C. Alexopoulos, W. Alexopoulos, K. Huff-Larmond, O'Connell)
Motion fails.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2023-039: Transfer From Retained Earnings for Blue Drop Obligations

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-039. Town Manager Howard provided a brief explanation of the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-039 as presented made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Brewer, Burgess, and Egan)
Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2023-040: Transfer of ARPA Revenue Loss Funds

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-040. Town Manager Howard provided a brief explanation of the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-040 made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Brewer, Burgess, and Egan)
Motion passes.

3. Council Order 2023-041: Authorization to Participate in the South Shore Consortium Home Program

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2023-041. Town Manager Howard and Planning Director Michelle Tyler were present to provide additional information on the purpose of this Council Order.

Planning Director Michelle Tyler: The Home Investments Partnerships Program (HOME) program is established by HUD Housing and Urban Development. It provides grants to states and localities that communities can use to fund a wide range of activities including things related to affordable housing for income-eligible families. The South Shore Home Consortium is currently comprised of Braintree, Holbrook, Milton, Quincy, and Weymouth. The lead community in this program is Quincy. The consortium has to vote on whether or not we can be a part of the consortium and I was recently notified that we can join. In order to join this program, the legislative body of the entity (Randolph) would need to consent to join, then all the paperwork will be submitted to HUD. There is a contribution Randolph would need to make based on the allocation. That appropriation would not come from federal funds so we could have a matching requirement of up to 25% of these funds to support all of the potential opportunities for preventing homelessness or foreclosure in our community.

Motion to approve Council Order 2023-041 made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Brewer, Burgess, and Egan)
Motion passes.

Correspondence:

1. Comcast: There will be changes to the Xfinity TV services. Starz will be increasing its monthly price from \$8.99 to \$9.99 effective July 2023.
2. The Commonwealth's Department of Public Utilities submitted a Notice of Filing and Request for Comments for National Grid's petition to seek a mid-term modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan. The Department of Public Utilities will conduct a virtual public hearing on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 2:00 PM. For details and information on how to provide public comments, please reach out to the Town Council office by phone or email, or visit the Department of Public Utilities website.

3. The Town of Randolph is hosting its annual Night Before The Fourth parade this Monday, July 3rd. The parade kicks off at 7:00 PM, with fireworks starting at 9:00 PM at Randolph High School. Please visit the Town of Randolph website for registration, volunteering, and sponsorship information.
4. Lastly, it is encouraged for residents to visit the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center and Turner Free Library websites for information on community programs taking place in July and throughout the summer. Some examples include Kayaking at Powers Farm on Sundays from 12-4 PM; tie-dye workshops on July 15, 2023, and Gardening 101 courses. There are many programs available for groups of all ages.

Committee Reports:

Human Services/Seniors/Recreation Subcommittee: There will be a Green Communities presentation in the upcoming meeting scheduled on July 5th, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Council Comments:

1. Councillor O'Connell: 1. I want to congratulate Team Bosco Burke for winning Honorary Mayor for this year's Night Before the Fourth Parade in Randolph. 2. I also had the pleasure of attending the Senior Prom and got to do the Cha-Cha Slide with Councillor Clerger and everyone who attended. Congratulations to Ms. Toby Swartz and Mr. Hanzel Cancel who won prom King and Queen.
2. Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Thank you to every who attended the Juneteenth Flag Raising and all who came to fellowship together at Powers Farm. The Master Plan Implementation Committee did a great job organizing everything. 2. There are various opportunities available through Randolph Youth Council coming up so please reach out to me if you are interested. 3. The Town of Randolph also posted a flyer for summer internships and job opportunities for the youth. Ninth and Tenth graders will receive community service hours, and Eleventh and Twelfth graders will receive compensation. 4. Lastly, this Saturday, July 1, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. will be hosting a 5k run at the Randolph High School Track from 10 AM to 12 PM.
3. Councillor Gordon: 1. We had the Ken Clifton fundraiser at the recent Caribbean Connection event which was a lot of fun. I think that will become a tradition every year. 2. Last weekend was the one-year anniversary of Roe versus Wade. There were a lot of protests all around and I'm hoping to put together a protest for next year.
4. Councillor Clerger: I want to present my congratulations to Queen Swartz and King Hanzel. I want to encourage the community to attend and support the seniors of the community at next year's prom. It was a beautiful event and truly worth getting dressed up for.
5. Councillor C. Alexopoulos: Happy Fourth of July! I hope to see everyone at the Night Before the Fourth Parade on July 3rd. Just a reminder to all residents to be safe and be mindful of noise ordinances that can be found online.
6. Council President Alexopoulos: Please join us at the Night Before the Fourth parade which starts at the Higashi School and ends at the Randolph Highschool with fireworks. You can find a spot anywhere in between and watch the parade.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.
 Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Egan, Brewer & Burgess)
 Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.