

Town Council meeting 12/6/21

Councilor W. Alexopoulos called the meeting to order. Councilor Clifton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silent prayer was held.

Meeting Minutes from 11/22/21

Councilor C. Alexopoulos made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Brewer.

Roll-call vote: 8-0-0 (Councilor Burgess not at the meeting at the time of the vote)

Public Comments

The Family of Paul Fernandes donated a gift of \$2,000 to the Community Center. Councilor W. Alexopoulos made a motion to accept the \$2,000 gift from the Fernandez Family which was seconded by Councilor Egan. Roll-call vote: 8-0-0 (Councilor Burgess not at the meeting at the time of the vote).

Councilor W. Alexopoulos noted at the beginning of public comments that the last several months have been very lenient on the way it has been run. It is not a back and forth. It will be limited to one topic and I will allow one speaker for each topic.

Randolph Youth Council – Ashley Laurent and Michael Larmond attended the meeting. Ms. Laurent noted about a toy drive that is currently taking place.

Sandra Cohen – Wants to know if the census count is going to be disputed.

Paul Meoni – 1) district map, urge you to keep the current format. 2) urge you to file a challenge with the regards to the census count. 3) Special Municipal employees – ask that you hold off on this. Do a workshop with the MMA.

Gladys McClain – Called to speak about Rosemont Square and the trash issue.

Asia Stanley – Called to speak about 14 Thompson Drive and wants to know when the conditions are going to be addressed.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – Your letter was forwarded on to the Board of Health for their review/investigation.

Judy Gangel – Would like the town to come up with some type of community service credit for students to shovel driveways and walkways for seniors.

Paul Foos, from Brockton – Discussed Rosemount Court trash issue.

Town Managers Report

Town Manager Howard gave the following report:

- 1) Regular water treatment taking place, may experience low pressure.
- 2) Testing and vaccine: had an event specific to Randolph youth. 142 Randolph children vaccinated yesterday. We do the children at any point but we have been doing some directive mailings. Another event coming up on December 12th.
- 3) Testing is getting big again, strongly suggest booking an appointment.
- 4) Winter Onederland taking place this weekend. Rolling rally for the RHS Football team and they will be lighting the switch to turn on the holiday lights. Liz Larosee gave an update of all the events.

Councilor Burgess entered the meeting.

Councilor Clifton – Commend the Director of Community Programming. Hoping there was something bigger and more significant in terms of the celebration for the RHS Blue Devils considering the historic nature of their accomplishment. Do not want it part of something else that is happening, warrants something big and community wide.

Councilor Huff-Larmond - Big on role modeling and how can we use this opportunity. Encourage students to want more of this and maybe that means staying within the Randolph school system. How can we turn this into something to turn the schools around.

Councilor Gordon – 1) PFAs meeting for Randolph/Holbrook Tri-town on the calendar for tomorrow. 2) December 8th is the DCR Poncapog Park meeting, would like to hear your comments on that.

Town Manager Howard – We were the first to put together a meeting with the folks from Mass DEP and some of those individuals will be attending the meeting for Holbrook. The link for the meeting is on the town webpage.

Re-precincting Maps

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – At the last meeting the Town Council voted on the 12 precinct map and voted on District 4. There were two motions and several amendments left off at the last meeting. There are two options:

- A) Motion was made for District 1 to be Precincts 1, 2 and 3. District 2 to be Precincts 7, 8 and 9. District 3 to be 4, 5 and 6 and we already did District 4 which is 10, 11 and 12.
- B) Motion is District 1 would be 1, 3 and 4. District 2 would be 2, 8 and 9. District 3 would be 5, 6 and 7 and District 4 is 10, 11 and 12.

At this time there are two options for the Councils vote. Ask for a vote on these two options. Want to thank Councilor Gordon for putting together the map that illustrates both options.

Councilor Burgess – Historically we have started at the South end of town. We have a senior member and that senior member has some weight.

Councilor Gordon – I understand from the previous meeting that most people were not clear on what is going on. The goal is where the district councilor resides and they all live in different districts. Mr. Burgess proposal has me not living in my own district.

Councilor Burgess – Where is the rule you are referencing.

Councilor Gordon – There are no written rules but the rules that the State commission adheres to is you must be in your district and you do not force them into a conflict with each other. I support Councilor Egan's proposal.

Councilor Huff-Larmond – Going through this whole process there was an unmentioned rule about putting current elected officials in the same district. When Jesse was putting together the maps, he was thinking off. He has been part of the process from the beginning. For myself it is not an issue. The only thing I am thinking about is keeping the community intact. Want residents to be familiar with their voting place.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – The motion is we choose either Option A or Option B.

Attorney Griffin – Option A or B have been seconded in many ways so you can go around and just ask people to pick.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – Make a motion to approve Councilor Order 2021-046 as printed with option A or B, seconded by Councilor Burgess.

Councilor Huff-Larmond – A

Councilor Gordon – A

Councilor Egan – B

Councilor Clifton – B

Councilor Burgess – B

Councilor Brewer – B

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – B

Councilor C. Alexopoulos - B

Option A = 2

Option B = 6

District 1 will be 1, 3 and 4. District 2 will be 2, 8 and 9 and District 3 will be 5, 6 and 7 and District 4 will be 10, 11 and 12.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – We have to approve the Metes Bounds?

Attorney Griffin – If you are leaving the numbers as they are I believe it achieves that but you can ask Town Clerk.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – District 1 has precincts 1, 3 and 4. District 2 has precincts 2, 8 and 9. Are you okay with leaving them like that or do you want to have them renumbered.

Town Clerk Sass – It's really up to the council, we can renumber them. It would probably make sense to renumber them so that 1, 2 and 3 still vote at the same place, 4, 5 and 6. Same polling locations will have the same precinct numbers.

Councilor Burgess – Move to ratify the metes and bounds as presented to the Council from the work of the Town Clerk, Town Engineer and the State as they exist today.

Councilor Egan – I did not vote for the motion I made because I think Councilor Burgess point on a southern district was a good point. For the metes and bounds we would just have to change them on the map. Would be interested in renumbering the precincts.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – Looking at the right hand map, are you looking to do the bottom in the blue 1, 2, 3 where 1, 3 and 4 is? Where the red is 4, 5, 6 and green 7, 8 and 9 and pink stays the same 10, 11 and 12.

Councilor Clifton – Would like recommend that 4 becomes 2 and 1 and 3 stay the same.

Councilor Egan – Most of the people in most of the precincts would stay in the precincts that they were in before.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – What Jesse suggested is defined better.

Attorney Griffin – precinct will remain precinct 1. Precinct 4 will become precinct 2. Precinct 3 would remain 3. Precinct 2 will become 4. 8 will become 5. 9 will become 6. 5 would become 7. 6 would become 8. 7 would become 9 and 10, 11 and 12 will remain the same.

Councilor Egan seconded the amendment.

Roll-call vote: 9-0

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – The certification in the packet needs to be signed by the Council. That will be in the Town Clerk's office for signatures.

Councilor Clerk Sass – Need the letter by December 15th.

2021-043

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – Proposed this a few meetings ago. Have an amended version which adds School bus drivers, monitors and mechanics to the list.

Councilor Burgess – so moved the order as amended, seconded by Councilor Egan.

Councilor Gordon – Have a lot of questions about the length of the list and whether some are appropriate and if they should be on the list. We should go line by line.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – Most of these positions are part-time or volunteer. They are not full-time employees and the idea is that a lot of these have already been designated clerical positions. Allow them to be part of the town of Randolph and maybe part of another community as well.

Councilor Clifton – I am not sure if the community is aware of what we are talking about. Think it needs further discussion. Randolph has a tremendous amount of residents who have talent and ability that the Town can utilize to help improve the boards and commissions. I would want to think residents are given preference to join boards and commissions than to compete with employees of the town.

Councilor Burgess – they are designated as a special municipal employee so they have the ability to do both municipal jobs. I do not recall any employee being put on a board over a resident. I believe it is more of a legal definition. If a councilor wants two weeks to review titles and has questions on positions, I would withdraw my motion to allow the councilor two additional weeks.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – The electrical inspector may be allowed to do it in another community. Gives them flexibility.

Attorney Griffin – The basic rule under the state ethics act is you may only have one municipal, they don't want you to have divided loyalties. If you have a job that is part time or where you are permitted to work for more than one entity during regular work hours and that job is designated as special. If you have someone who works for the CPA that person could also work for the Disabilities Commission without violating the ethics act. An animal control officer could work 15 hours in Randolph and 15 hours in Holbrook without violating the State ethics act. This is specifically for part time positions. It would not cover any regular full time employee.

Councilor Huff-Larmond – If someone has a part time job in Randolph they are eligible to have another part time job in another community, how does that effect the employee in Randolph who maybe has a part time job and wants another part time job in Randolph. It could be two part time jobs in Randolph.

Attorney Griffin – You will see that with someone that serves as Clerk is in the same town. If that was designated as Special employee that person could do the minutes for various commissions/boards.

Councilor Huff-Larmond – Why are we going through this list if it is something that has happened in the past?

Attorney Griffin – The last time this list was updated was more than 15 years ago and the form of government has changed and the structure of the town has changed. We have a number of boards and committees that did not exist at all and a number of clerical positions. So this is meant to be an update to the list that was prepared many years ago. If there is a job on here that the Town Manager decided to hire a full time employee then that job would not be a special employee. Being on the list doesn't mean you can have another job.

Councilor Clifton – What is the genesis of this order? How did it come about?

Councilor W. Alexopoulos It came up because of the Deb situation. Deb went to work for another municipality and I asked her to stay on to do the minutes for the Town Council and Licensing Board. Chairman asked her to do the work of the license renewals. Otherwise she would not be able to do those functions. At the same time we went through the list and decided to add the new job titles to the list and put this order together.

Councilor Egan – Make a motion to call the question.

Councilor Burgess – I will withdraw my motion for the councilor who wants two weeks.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – It is the pleasure of the council to hold off until the next meeting?

Councilor Clifton – I would support that.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – I will hold off on this until the next meeting. We will give the council adequate time.

2021-047

Councilor W. Alexopoulos read the order in full. Order was introduced by Town Manager Howard.

Town Manager Howard – There are contractual costs involved and we have had to cover shifts. We have had a number of long term injuries that have required covered shifts. We hired 9 officers. 2 were able to go to work and 3 of them did not pass the PATs. In the hiring of those positions the goal was to limit OT. I believe there is \$44,000 left in that account and this is necessary to continue to operate. This is the immediate need, I ask the councils support.

Councilor Clifton – These lateral transfer will those be at different levels?

Town Manager Howard – No, you can only do laterals at the patrol level. We have had hit or miss in the past having folks come in as laterals. If you apply for a lateral your current town has to sign off on it so we might not have much luck in today's market. Civil Service is a slow process. Chief has made a number of moves in the department.

Councilor Egan – Make a motion to approve Council Order 2021-047.

Councilor C. Alexopoulos – I second that motion.

Roll-call vote: 8-0-0 Motion passes. (Councilor Clerger not on line at the time of the vote).

Correspondence

- 1) Country Club Drive resident letter addressed to the DPW dated 11/9/21 for pot hole and paving on their street.

Town Manager Howard – There is no question if we can get them on the Spring list, it is listed as a major rehab. We try to group streets because there are different charges involved when they set up on the streets.

Councilor Clifton – Spoke with Brian a few weeks ago. Country Club drive is deplorable. Since October 30, 2014 I have received correspondence from a resident that the road is in really bad shape. This goes way back that the residents have been advocating for assistance.

Councilor Gordon – I have a listing of streets done this year, 6 for a total of \$1M. I think the list should be made public so they can see how streets can be paved.

Councilor Burgess – We have to have a conversation on sidewalks because we can't maintain sidewalks. Is it really worth the investment of certain streets having a sidewalk.

Councilor Huff-Larmond – Hoping there is something we can do and do it better. When did we put this list together with all these streets?

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – This list is about 10 years old and gets updated on an annual basis.

Town Manager Howard – It was re-evaluated in the last year and a half. I do see some of the streets when I drive around. They rate the streets based on how much they are traveled. There are streets that are poor that only impact 5 homes but there may be cut through that affects others.

Councilor Clifton – I think Councilor Gordon might have caused confusion by implying that the road will not be paved until 2035. That is not what he was trying to convey but that is how it came across.

- 2) Letter from National Grid dated 11/9/21 the annual alert that is received.
Councilor W. Alexopoulos – That letter should be forwarded to Conservation.
- 3) Letter from our State Representatives. Dated 11/17/21. Signed by Driscoll, Ayers and Cusack, comments about funding that has come in recent years.

Councilor Burgess – Point of information, have we received a letter signed by the 3 representatives other than this one? I am appalled that they would write this document. They missed the point. The point was on redistricting. Milton and Quincy got 90% reimbursement. Randolph got 66%. That's the argument I was making. I appreciate the funding they have been able to obtain for us. Most of which is based on formulas by the government.

Councilor Clifton – I believe that whenever a councilor is representing his constituents he should be able to do that uninhabited.

- 4) Letter dated 11/9/21 from Rep Driscoll to the Town Manager and the Council President. In this letter Rep Driscoll wants to make sure the town is aware of the census count and it is 16 people short of the Gateway City designation.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – What would the process be?

Attorney Griffin – The Census Bureau has an appeal process but they have not formally begun the process yet. Should take place in early 2022.

Councilor Clifton – Do we know what is the track record of challenging is?

Attorney Griffin – I do not know what the track record is. We will be in a position to do it if the council wants to do it. The period to file has not started yet so we have not appealed yet.

Councilor Clifton – How can we benefit being a Gateway City?

Attorney Griffin – Gateway City program is a grant funding program that is available to cities that meet certain qualifications, including population qualification. Only a small percentage of the towns in Massachusetts meet the qualifications and there is significant amount of funding available for all sorts of public projects.

Town Manager Howard – There are certain things in government that are no brainers and doing everything we can to qualify for this falls into that category. Anything we can do we need to do. There are other components that they look at that is data driven and the Town Clerk and Town Planner will be looking at those numbers.

Councilor Gordon – there are two things here and I am happy to write up the benefits of a Gateway City if we need to have a resolution or something like that. The specifics are to look at particular census blocks and compare them to what we know about the people who live there.

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – Nobody has ever come forward to say hey once you surpass the 35,000 population threshold there are additional benefits.

Councilor Clifton – Think we should respond to Rep Driscoll's formal letter.

- 5) Letter from Rep Driscoll – saying he watched the October 18th meeting and he wanted to make sure he forwarded all the councilors the State Redistricting process.
- 6) Letter from Comcast 11/18/21 – providing information about pricing and content.

Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Councilor Brewer – holding a book and bake sale at the Library on 12/11/21 from 1 to 3 during the Winter Onederland festivities. Teens half day hangout on 12/8 and 12/15.

Council Comments

Councilor Gordon – Commented on PFAs Holbrook meeting last week. Holbrook exceeded their PFAs limit. There is a 12/8/21 meeting for Ponkpog pond. Many millions being spent on that, most of it not in Randolph and they want to hear from people of Randolph. State money, no taxes being raised.

Councilor Clifton – Congratulate our Randolph High School Blue Devils on their historic achievement.

Councilor Brewer – Want to say how proud I am off the football team and what they have accomplished.

Councilor Clerger – Congratulations to the Blue Devils. We are very proud of you.

Councilor Huff-Larmond – Want to congratulate the football team on their accomplishments. Randolph Youth Council Toy drive. Two boxes, one at RICC and one at the Town Hall. Thank Brian for putting the water letter out in multiple languages.

Councilor C. Alexopoulos – Congratulations to the football team for winning their super bowl. It takes a lot, it's not just about winning a game, it's about life. So proud of them. It is a great feeling and same with the Blue Hills football team. North Randolph Tree lighting will be Sunday, December 12th. Will post the information on Facebook and the Website.

Councilor Egan – Want to congratulate the Blue Devils, making us proud.

Executive Session

Councilor W. Alexopoulos read the Executive Session language into the record.

Roll-call vote to go into Executive Session: 8-0-0 (Councilor Burgess not on line at the time of the vote).

Councilor W. Alexopoulos – Going into Executive Session and will not be coming back to public session.