



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, February 26, 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 Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: William Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James F. Burgess, Jr., Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (In-Person).

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

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held in remembrance of Kenneth R. “Ken” Simmons who passed away on February 22, 2024. Ken was a proud graduate of Randolph’s Stetson High School and can be remembered through the cable access shows he hosted called “Beneath the Elms and “Travels with Chloe” showcasing his love for storytelling and community engagement.

Councillor Huff-Larmond entered the meeting, in person, at 6:03 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- 1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting March 28, 2022**
- 2. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting August 21, 2023**
- 3. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting February 5, 2024**

Motion to collect the minutes of Town Council Meetings: March 28, 2022, August 21, 2023, and February 5, 2024 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Council Vice President Brewer.

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

Motion passes.

Motion to approve the minutes of Town Council Meetings: March 28, 2022, August 21, 2023, and February 5, 2024 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Council Vice President Brewer.

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

Motion passes.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos entered the meeting, in person, at 6:07 PM.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2024-008: Debt Authorization Order - Lyons School Additional Funds

Town Council Clerk read Council Order 2024-008. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order and provided additional information regarding the purpose of the Council Order.

Council President Alexopoulos: This Council Order requires two meetings and a public hearing so this will be continued to the next Council Meeting on March 4, 2024.

2. Council Order 2024-009: Requesting for the Town Council to Amend the Town of Randolph General Ordinances to Add a New Section 56-2 Concerning Annual Reporting

The Town Council Clerk read the Council Order.

Council President Alexopoulos: This is tedious, cumbersome, and time-consuming. At any given point, our Town Accountant/Finance Director can give us this information and she has already stated she will continue to give this information quarterly. Town Manager Howard: In speaking with several department heads, you will rarely find out the reason why you did not receive a particular grant. A lot of the information being requested here would be difficult because we can't provide what we don't have. In some cases, it is onerous how much time and effort it would take to obtain additional information from some of the grant administrators. The Town Accountant/Finance Director has certainly stated she can provide this information regarding grant information such as key information how much we get, and how the funds were spent.

Councillor Gordon: The whole idea is for this information to be easily accessible by the public. We need to know the list of the grants we do receive and then secondly be able to make recommendations on which additional grants to apply for and make suggestions. Town Manager Howard: The information sent by the Town Accountant/Finance Director, and information provided in the quarterly updates can be posted on the website as well. Additionally, a public records request can be made for this information.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: It sounds like Councillor Gordon just wants transparency. If the Town Accountant/Finance Director will already be giving us this information then how could we make that information more transparent?

Councillor Gordon: Yes, I agree the more information we provide the better. In the Council Order, I list the terms earmarks, loan forgiveness, and other sources. So I've expanded my focus from just grants to other things in addition to grants. It's not so easy to find what grants Randolph received last year.

Councillor Burgess: This is tedious and cumbersome. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Are you satisfied with the response of the Town Manager? Councillor Gordon: I think the information the Town Accountant/Finance Director provided and putting that on the website is a huge step forward.

Motion to not take action on Council Order 2024-009 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 5-3-0 (Nays: Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

3. Resolution 2024-001: Resolution Concerning the Randolph Youth Cleanup Corps

Councillor Gordon presented Resolution 2024-001 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Resolution. This proposal expands on lower-level employees, such as a temporary employee, so we can have a summer cleanup of litter.

Councillor Burgess: We already do this. You're proposing an education peace which the Department of Public Works (DPW) is not prepared to do. We already have a summer youth program and they are getting paid for their work.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: I'm wondering how we can incorporate your ideas into the program I already have in place with the Town Manager. What is the education piece? Having black and brown kids picking up trash is unacceptable to me, but having kids employed is acceptable. If we could merge your proposed program with what already exists, I think that would be great.

Council President Alexopolous: We have the Summer DPW program, the Youth Works program, the Summer Internship program, and the Summer Recreation program where the youth are hired to work as camp councilors. So there are lots of already existing programs in place.

Town Manager Howard: We work with the young people in the youthwork program who essentially get to choose what areas of interest they would like to work in. We have the DPW summer program with the youth not just helping to clean the Town but learning the tricks of the trade, and then the summer internship at Town Hall in which the youth learn about the different department functions.

Councillor Gordon: I understand there are already several programs to do some of this work but the Conservation Commission has made it clear that there are not enough resources to keep the conservation areas cleaner. The existing resources simply can't keep up.

Councillor Burgess: The Conservation Commission has never had the budget to clean their properties. What you are proposing to us is a hierarchy chart that is already being down by Councillor Huff-Larmond with the existing staff and this is redundant. If you're asking for more money to hire more people, then do that.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Would you be open to working with me to make the Randolph Youth Internship Program bigger and better? Councillor Gordon: Absolutely.

Councillor O'Connell: If more funding is what you are seeking for the Conservation Commission then your attention needs to be redirected to that.

Motion to not take action on Resolution 2024-001 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-0 (Nays: Gordon; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes

Correspondence:

1. Hey ("Health Empowered Youth") Randolph! is hosting an Action Retreat to learn more about the Coalition, review data collected, and identify strategies for addressing substance misuse. The Retreat takes place on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Randolph Elk's Lodge, 21 School Street, Randolph, MA 02368.

2. Understanding your Real Estate Tax Bill Presentation by the Town Assessor and Treasurer Collector - Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 5:30 PM, Randolph Town Hall, Chapin Hall, 2nd Floor, Randolph, MA 02368

3. Early Voting Information for the Presidential Primary Election on March 5th, 2024. All registered voters in Randolph are eligible to vote early at Randolph Town Hall!

4. Randolph Community Partnership, Inc. presents its 2024 Red Carpet Gala on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 6 PM to 10 PM at the Granite Links, 100 Quarry Hills Drive, Quincy, MA 02169. Tickets can be purchased online by clicking here: [Red Carpet Gala Tickets](#)

5. Registration for Randolph Recreation's Summer Programs have started. Information nights are available at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center on February 28, March 20, and April 10, 2024 all at 7:00 PM. Questions? Email Robyn Rinehart at RRinehart@randolph-ma.gov

Subcommittee Reports:

Recreation/Seniors/Human Services Subcommittee: Councillor C. Alexopoulos provided an update concerning this Subcommittee. We met recently and spoke briefly about some of the upcoming plans.

Council Comments:

Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Randolph Youth Council had a cooking class to celebrate Black History Month. Thank you to Chef Keze. Our next project will be doing some substance misuse programming. More information to come. 2. I was able to make it to the Lunar New Year event at the St. Bernadette Church and it was great. 3. On March 23, 2024, at 2:00 PM there is a college prep course sponsored by Spring of Water Assembly Church at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center. Last year my kid was preparing for college and we found it extremely helpful. 4. The Haitian Community meeting scheduled for April 3, 2024, has been canceled and we will hear more about that in the future. 4. Randolph Women's Club 6th Annual International Women's Day luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Elk's Lodge. I'm readlly excited to attend and I hope you can too. 5. NAACP is having an annual phenomenal women's event in Avon. 6. I was in the Brockton community today showing my support for the students at Brockton High School.

Councillor O'Connell: Motivation Church is hosting a Palm Saturday Community Day Even at the Randolph Intergeneration Community Center. You can sign up in advance by going to the Motivation Church website or social media pages.

Councillor Thompson: Today is Iowa Jima Rembernence Day. Kevin Cook of Veteran's Services was at the State House today to speak at the ceremony. 2. Congratulations to Sharon Parrington-Write and Liz LaRosee who received the National Digital Inclusion Alliance Trailblazer Award on behalf of the Town of Randolph.

Councillor Gordon: To elaborate on the recent Human Services/Seniors/Recreation Subcommittee meeting- we discussed primarily an outline for how the Conservation Commission should care for Conservation Areas including guidelines that indicate appropriate walkways through wetlands, signage, and more. 2. I filed a petition to the Town of Avon regarding the repeated blasting done at TL Edwards and the damage it has done to Randolph residents' homes but it was rejected by the Selectboard due to there not being a funding means to address this issue. I'm looking for input from the people of Randolph to figure out where we should go next.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: I was also able to attend the Lunar New Year celebration and it was a great time.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.