



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:06 p.m.

Randolph Town Hall-Chapin Hall 2nd Floor

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 Ryan Egan called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James F. Burgess Jr. (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (In-Person), Ryan Egan (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (In-Person and Via Zoom)

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilor Brewer.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held in remembrance of Jaylin Rainford.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

1. January 2, 2026
2. January 12, 2026
3. January 26, 2026

Motion: to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting minutes of January 2, 2026 made by Councilor Alexopoulos, seconded by Councilor O’Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Motion: to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting minutes of January 12, 2026 made by Councilor Alexopoulos, seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Motion: to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting minutes of January 26, 2026 made by Councilor O’Connell, seconded by Councilor Clerger .

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Announcements from the President:

1. Subcommittee Appointments
 - a. President Egan requested to appointment the subcommittees at the next meeting due to the pending action on Council Order 2026-003.
2. President Egan informed the Council that a joint meeting with the School Committee was added to the calendar for May 11, 2026. Location is to be determined.
3. President Egan would like the Council Clerk to reach out to the Councilors and ask for their availability for a meeting to discuss the audits before the Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting.

Public Hearings:

1. At 6:15 PM the public hearings were opened for Council Order 2026-001, Council Order 2026-002, Request for Extension of Special Permit for 502 S. Main Holdings, LLC, and Presentation and Public Input for FY2027 Budget.

Motion: Moved by Councilor O’Connell and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos, to continue the public hearings after the presentation by the Development Authority.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Presentations:

1. Redevelopment Authority Presentation was given by Arthur Goldstein and Sean Fontes. This presentation went over what the group has been up to as well as what they hope to do. This included an Executive Director position to help with connecting developers to property owners. They have run into a couple road blocks such as a large drain pipe that is running through a portion of town and with zoning.
 - a. President Egan thanked Authur and Sean for coming and giving an update.
 - b. Councilor Burgess asked what the vision is from the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Goldstein stated the goal would be for commercial with residential units above. Councilor Burgess also asked if there is a proposed solution for the drain pipe. Councilor Burgess does not believe that their projected outcome is feasible.
 - c. Councilor Gordon is requesting that the Redevelopment Authority bring two items back to the council.
 - i. A dollar amount for a contracted Executive Director
 - ii. Top three issues with proposed solutions
 - d. Councilor Huff-Larmond thanked the Redevelopment Authority for the presentation and what they are trying to accomplish in Randolph. She would like visuals as to what they are hoping to develop and where. Lastly, if there are issues brought up by developers, what are their suggestions to overcome them?
 - e. President Egan would like the Redevelopment Authority to consider the community they are working in and try to formulate a plan that best fits Randolph.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM Council Order 2026-001: National Grid Pole Petition at Turner Ln
 - a. Council Order 2026-001 was introduced at the Town Meeting on February 9, 2026. A Public Hearing was held on Council Order 2026-001 on February 9,2026. The council heard from National Grid employee Jared, opened public comments, closed public comments, and invited deliberation from the councilors.
 - b. Given the proposed location on Turner Lane Councilor Burgess requested to obtain feedback from the Town Planner before making any motions.
 - c. The Town Council President then closed the Public Hearing.

- d. Given the position of the new pole Councilor Burgess requested feedback from the Town Planner before voting.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motion to continue Council Order 2026-001 to March 9th, 2026 at 6:15 PM. This motion was seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

2. 6:15 PM Council Order 2026-002: National Grid Pole Petition at Mazzeo Dr, Ohmans Ln, and Circuit Drive
 - a. Council Order 2026-002 was introduced at the Town Meeting on February 9, 2026. A Public Hearing was held on Council Order 2026-002 on February 9, 2026. The council heard from National Grid employee Jared, opened public comments,
 - b. Joe Burke, 54 Hill St, asked if the town sees any of the revenue from these charging stations.
 - c. Council President closed public comments and invited deliberation from the councilors. The Town Council President then closed the Public Hearing.

Motion: Councilor Burgess moved to approve Council Order 2026-002 as presented on the Thomas Patten Drive and Mazzeo Drive with the stipulation that there be no guidewires and sweeps are to be made of galvanized steel or metal, seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

3. 6:15 PM Request for Extension of Special Permit for 502 S. Main Holdings, LLC
 - a. Councilor Burgess stated that the Town Council knew when issuing this permit that it was going to be a long process and would require extensions. Councilor Burgess asked them if the units that are done have been sold and what the going sales price was. This was answered by the applicant saying that the units are sold and the 2 bedrooms are selling for \$540,000.
 - b. Councilor Huff-Larmond is grateful for the development and understands the need for the extension.
 - c. Vice President Brewer understands delays when it comes to construction and supports the project.
 - d. Councilor O'Connell says they have been truthful with the town throughout the development and is thrilled with how it is coming out.
 - e. Town Attorney Griffin gave a brief overview of the timeline on the special permit. There is also a request from Tony who serves as the chair for the PRA (Plan Review Authority) that oversees this project to discontinue the PRA as our new zoning ordinance no longer includes them. Another recommendation was to remove the stipulation that a trail be built since the conservation Commission is against the trail.
 - f. Councilor Gordon asked for clarification on which trail Conservation Commission was referencing.
 - g. President Egan questioned if the recommended conditions came from the Chair of the PRA. However, it is up to the Council whether or not to adopt them. Councilor Burgess says that the vote takes those stipulations into account.

Motion: Moved by Councilor O’Connell to grant the requested special permit extension for two years, with an extended special permit extension date of December 11, 2027. After due consideration of the applicant’s request for relief and based upon the facts that have been submitted to the town council, including the applicants written submissions and a testimony and comments presented to the town council during the public hearing, and based on the reached, recited findings in the original special permit decision and the special permit extension, and as part of this extension, I move the town council grant The requested special permit extension, pursuant to the Randolph zoning ordinance and all other applicable law to permit the construction and operation of a union crossing transit District project at 502 South Main St., Randolph, MA as described in the applicants application and incorporating all findings from the original special permit decision and first special permit extension. This motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1 (Abstention: Alexopoulos)

Motion passes.

4. 6:15 PM Presentation and Public Input for FY2027 Budget

- a. Town Manager Brian Howard and Finance Director Janine Smith gave a presentation on the past, current and future budget for the town. This presentation went over the operating results including Free Cash balance which has increased over the past five years. The presentation then went onto how the town has used Free Cash over the past few years. Reserves were spoken on next including the history going back to FY16. The current year's fiscal revenues were spoken of such as local receipts, medicaid reimbursement and more.
- b. Town Manager Howard thanked the Finance Director for the clear representation on the budget presentation. Town Manager Howard spoke on the likelihood of needing to increase the Public Safety overtime as well as the Snow and Ice budget; both of these are unknowns in the budgets.
- c. Town Manager Howard then went on to speak about the FY27 budget stating we are continuing to identify efficiencies in operations, identify new revenue sources and manage the predictable and unpredictable pressures. Town Manager Howard spoke on some budget increases that we are aware of such as health insurance budget, debt budget, collective bargaining agreements and the potential impact on the Blue Hills Vocational School. Town Manager Howard brought to the attention of all that the Chapter 70 funding has significantly decreased. Lastly, the Town Manager wants to remind departments that if there is a proposed increase there would need to be a proposed decrease as well. Town Manager Howard states that many communities in the state are facing an operation override for their budgets. The goal is to try and hold on the what we have in town.
- d. President Egan opened up the Public Comments of the Public Hearing.
 - i. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: recommends that the departments come in front of the Finance Committee and explain their budgets and the requests.
- e. President Egan closed the Public Comments portion of the Public Hearing and then opened it up to the councilors for comments.
- f. Councilor Burgess comments on the budget in relation to taxes. Stating we need to live within the means of the tax payers. Thanked the Town Manager and Town Finance Director for the presentation.
- g. Councilor Alexopoulos thanked both Town Manager Howard and Finance Director Smith. Councilor Alexopoulos asked if they think the town is budgeting too conservatively given the increase of free cash. Town Manager Howard does not believe so since a boost to the free cash was a result of ARPA funding and an increase in local receipts.
- h. The Town Finance Director Smith reiterated the spike in free cash in FY23 is due to ARPA. Finance Director Smith did state that we do budget revenues conservatively to keep us in good financial standing.

- i. Councilor Gordon would like to keep the 4 million dollar paving budget, keep parks maintained and cleaned, fund the new master plan and open space and recreation plan.
- j. Councilor Clerger agrees that paving is a hot topic amongst residents.
- k. Councilor Thompson would like to see someone who can handle building maintenance for all our buildings. Town Manager Howard states that there is no Facilities Manager but is working on seeing if the Building Department can support another person.
- l. President Egan thanked Town Manager Howard and Finance Director for their presentation.

Public Comments

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

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street- Asked if the next joint meeting with the School Committee was going to be televised.

There were no more public comments. The public comments portion of the public hearing was closed. The Councilors were invited to comment or ask questions on the special permit application.

Proclamations: None

Appointments: None

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions: None

New Business:

1. Council Order 2026-010: Request From Scott Burgess for Letter of Approval
 - a. A letter was sent into the Town in support of their use of the land at the former NIKE missile site. Mr Burgess states that he was informed by DCR to retain a letter of recommendation from the town before they would look into this operation. This includes creating and importing compost, creating clean fill as well as allowing snow dumping. Scott Burgess has in their plan to give the town funds for the yards sold off this property.
 - b. Councilor Thompson asked about any plans to pave the road given the incline on the property.
 - c. Councilor O'Connell asked who they spoke to at DCR. Mr. Burgess said he would get back to the council with the name. Councilor O'Connell asked if there is a plan in place for trash.
 - d. Councilor Gordon commented on requesting to have a gate moved further up and have parking created for hiking/trail head.
 - e. Councilor Alexopoulos asked if their operations compete with the DPW? Scott stated that it would compete if anything it would alleviate and we have communicated with DPW. Councilor Alexopolous then went on to ask about the recreation activities that happen on that land such as hiking and deer hunting. Councilor Alexopoulos then asked about frequency and hours of operation.
 - f. Vice President Brewer states that in the snow season you would be open later due the weather. He also warns of having people have access near the property.
 - g. Councilor Clerger believes it would be good income for the town. Her concern is around truck traffic. Mr. Burgess' Colleague replied back that there would be an increase in truck traffic but they could create a specific route for them with restrictions such as no engine braking.

Councilor Thompson joined the meeting via zoom at 8:42 PM.

- h. Councilor Huff-Larmond also wishes to see a truck traffic plan as well as what the DPW thinks on the proposed use of land. Councilor Huff-Larmond then asked about dust concerns coming off these trucks.
- i. Councilor Alexopoulos would like to see a full and complete business plan including maps, fire and safety plans.
- j. Town Manager Howard wants to ensure the council is aware of what the safety measures are in place. Make sure due diligence is done.
- k. Councilor Burgess advised the councilors to send their questions to the Town Council Clerk who will then send them off the Mr. Burgess for response.
- l. Councilor Burgess thinks that the truck traffic that is not generated in Randolph needs to go around the town using RT93. Councilor Burgess recommends adding the letter to our stipulations for use of land.
- m. Vice President Brewer reminds all that Yankee bus will be operating large vehicles in that area as well.
- n. Councilor Huff-Larmond would like a written statement from DPW
- o. Councilor O'Connell would like to see a site plan including the location of machinery.
- p. Councilor Clerger says we can not please everyone and asked Councilor Alexopoulos if the impact to residents would outweigh the positives of the proposal.

Motion: Motion to continue Council Order 2026-010 to February 23, 2026 by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Vice President Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- 1. Council Order 2026-003: Proposed Amendment To Town Council Rules Pertaining to Committees and Suspension of the Rules
 - a. President Egans stated there is an updated order in the agenda packet which is 2026-003A, this amended version takes into consideration the comments by councilors when it was introduced back in January.
 - b. Councilor Burgess questioned the changes in regard to Public Hearings during Subcommittee meetings. Councilor Burgess feels it is beneficial to hear from the public on certain topics before coming back to the Council for discussion.
 - c. Town Attorney Griffin wants to remind the council that holding public hearings has a cost to the town but there is no legal requirement to hold public hearings during subcommittee meetings.
 - d. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked the intentions for the change in the subcommittee rules. President Egan states this is just a refined process.
 - e. Councilor Alexopoulos agrees with the measures put in front of the council.
 - f. Councilor Gordon has additional amendments section 13 which is about minutes and public participation. Councilor Gordon would like to allow for back and forth during public comments especially if it is a question that can be answered on the spot in both subcommittee and town council meetings.

Motion: Moved by Councilor Gordon to amend section 13 in the council rules to allow back and forth during Public Comments. This motion was seconded by Councilor Burgess.

Councilor Gordon withdrew the motion.

- g. Councilor Burgess believes that the Council rules and Subcommittee rules should align.

- h. Councilor Huff-Larmond believes that these are two different thoughts being presented and they should be voted separate.
- i. Councilor O'Connell is in support of being able to answer residents with simple questions. He also is not in support of a separate subcommittee for proclamations. President Egan said the proclamation subcommittee would be for those that require a vote by the council.

Motion: Motion to continue Council Order 2026-003 until February 23, 2026 by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor O'Connell .

Roll Call Vote: 6-3-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Burgess, Clerger, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson; Nays: Gordon, Egan and Brewer)

Motion passes.

Councilor Thompson arrived back in person.

New Business (continued):

- 2. Council Order 2026-011: Approval of Amendment to Employment Agreement with Finance Director/Town Accountant.

- a. Councilor Alexopoulos gave a brief overview of this Council Order which is to issue a \$5,000 bonus for the work that was above and beyond her duties.
- b. Councilor Burgess says she was asked to do other duties and should be compensated.
- c. The Town Manager was asked if the remaining items are urgent or if they could wait until the future meeting.

Motion: Motion to continue the Council Orders 2026-011, 2026-012, 2026-013, 2026-014 and the discussion on the Night Before the Fourth until February 23, 2026 by Councilor Gordon and seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 2-7-0 (Yays: Gordon and Huff-Larmond; Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan, Clerger, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson)

Motion fails.

- d. Councilor Huff-Larmond asks if the compensation is for extra work that was done. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked if her current contract included work with the school. Councilor Burgess states that was a different issue. Councilor Huff-Larmond was under the impression it was through the contract to collaborate with the schools.

Motion: Motion to call the question by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 7-2-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Clerger, Egan, O'Connell, Thompson; Nays: Gordon and Huff-Larmond)

Motion Passes.

Motion: Motion to approve Council Order 2026-011 as presented made by Councilor O'Connell and seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-1 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Clerger, O'Connell, Thompson; Nays: Gordon and Huff-Larmond; Abstention: Egan)

Motion passes.

- 3. Council Order 2026-012: Authorization for Payment of Prior Year Unpaid Bills

- a. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order which is to authorize payments of unpaid bills from the previous fiscal year.

Motion: Moved by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos, to approve Council Order 2026-012 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion Passes.

4. Council Order 2026-013: Transfer of Free Cash to the Town Manager Department Salary Budget

Motion: Councilor Alexopoulos motioned to approve Council Order 2026-013 as presented, This motion was seconded by Councilor Burgess.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

5. Council Order 2026-014: Establishment of Gift Fund to Provide Housing Assistance to Veterans

Motion: Moved by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos, to approve Council Order 2026-014 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1

Motion passes.

6. Discussion/ Decision for the Night Before the Fourth Parade
 - a. Bill Sell from Advisor Communications is a consultant that specializes in parades and festivals. He was invited to speak on the Night Before the Fourth. He gave a brief overview of the options the town has which include a parade, parade with fireworks and a festival. The date for this event is recommended for July 11th which is a Saturday.
 - b. President Egan recommends that the Council make a decision soon so they have ample time for planning.
 - c. Councilor Thompson is still in favor of the fireworks.
 - d. Councilor O'Connell likes the idea of having all these different performances for people to enjoy if we were to go the festival route.
 - e. President Egan would like this to be in a future meeting for further discussion.
 - f. Councilor Huff-Larmond loves a parade but believes we need to take into consideration the public safety concerns.
 - g. Councilor Clerger would like to hear from the public on this topic.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Town Manager Howard asked if the Council would appoint Leigh Prendergast and Stephen Kyei Boadu to the Board of Health.

Motion: Moved by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond to appoint Leah Prendergast and Stephen Carne-Ladue to the Board of Health.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent at vote: Alexopoulos)

Motion passes.

Correspondence: None

Subcommittee Reports: None

Council Comments:

1. Councilor Huff-Larmond: Working on a Home Rule Petition to get Haitian Creole on the Ballot. February 27th from 6-8PM is an event for heart month. Happy Black History Month!
2. Councilor Thompson: Great job by the DPW with snow cleanup.
3. Councilor Alexopoulos: Gave thanks to the DPW as well.
4. Vice President Brewer: DPW did a great job on clean up. Sidewalks are now passable.
5. Councilor O'Connell: Thank you to the Randolph Community Band for their Children's Concert.
6. Councilor Gordon: Randolph Resistance meeting is February 10th at 7 PM at the First Congregational Church. February 12th at 7 PM the Randolph Foundation for Education will be meeting in the Lincoln Room in Town Hall.
7. Councilor Clerger: Randolph Foundation of Education is accepting donations for the Band to go to DC. Happy Valentine's Day and Black History Month!

Executive Session

Council President Egan read the following: The Town Council may vote to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 30A section 21(a)(2), which permits a public body to go into executive session to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the public body and the chair so declares

Before the Council went into Executive Session, Councilor Burgess asked who the employee was, the definition of negotiations and if it was collective bargaining.

Council President Egan requested a vote for the Town Council to enter an Executive Session.
Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

The Council President announced that the Council would enter the Executive Session and would not be returning to the public session after the Executive Session.

Adjournment

The public portion of the Town Council meeting concluded, and the Council entered an executive session at 10:33 PM.

Notification of Upcoming Council Meetings:

February 23-Joint with the School Committee

March 9 and 23

April 13 and 27

May 4, 11 and 18- May 11th is Joint with the School Committee

June 8 and 22

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24- August 10th is Joint with the School Committee

September 14 and 28

October 5 and 19

November 2 and 23

December 7- Joint with the School Committee