



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6:09 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 (Via Zoom), Ryan Egan (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (In-Person)

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

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor Alexopoulos moved to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting minutes of June 8, 2026. This motion was seconded by Vice President Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Appointments:

1. Treasurer/Collector

Motion: Moved by Councilor Gordon and seconded by Vice President Brewer, to appoint Allen Laurent as the Treasurer Collector.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Announcements from the President: None

Presentations: None

Public Hearings:

1. Council Order 2026-047: FY2027 Randolph Community Preservation Budget and Reserves

- a. Council Order 2026-047, approval of the Community Preservation Budget was introduced by Town Manager Howard on June 8, 2026. The Council Clerk referenced the Public Hearing notice that was published in the Patriot Ledger on June 5, 2026.
- b. Council President Egan opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.
 - i. Joe Burke, 54 Hills St: Asked about the state match of the CPC funds? Town Manager Howard stated that the match varies.
 - ii. Sandi Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: asked what the Community Housing Account is? Town Manager Howard stated that this account could be used for the creation of housing and even employment positions to monitor the housing.
- c. The public comments portion of the public hearing was then closed and then it was opened up to the council for comment.
 - i. Councilor Burgess would like to make sure that the Town is following up on the restrictions that we are giving funds for such as the Belcher house.
 - ii. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked what the process of follow up on these restrictions are? Town Manager Howard stated that most commonly there is a deed restriction.
- d. The Public Hearing was closed.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to approve Council Order 2026-047. This motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2026-045: FY2027 Water and Sewer Rates
 - a. Council Order 2026-045 was introduced by Town Manager Howard on June 8, 2026. This Council order would set the FY2027 water and sewer rates. Town Manager Howard introduced Matthew Abrahams from the Abrahams Group; who has been helping with the rate and sewer rates. They briefly reviewed the presentation that was given at the June 8th, 2026 Council Meeting. The Council Clerk referenced the Public Hearing notice that was published in the Patriot Ledger on June 5, 2026. Town Manager Howard shared historical data on the previous rates and how they impact retained earnings and stabilization accounts.
 - b. Council President Egan opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.
 - i. Sandi Cohen, 6 Bittersweet Lane: Asked about commercial water bills and if Town Manager believes that these rates would deter business from opening in Randolph.
 - ii. Joe Burke, 54 Hills St: asked about residents getting two water meters for outside and inside water usage. Town Manager Howard gave a list of reasons why the town has not looked into this; and encourages residents to use a company that fills pools. Mr. Burke then asked if the senior citizens discount will be changing with these rates? Town Manager Howard stated that they were remaining the same and that we could look into increasing these in the future.
 - c. The public comments portion of the public hearing was then closed. The Public Hearing was closed.
 - d. The Council then started to make motions on the water/sewer rates which were as follows:

First main motion: Councilor O'Connell moved to increase the water and sewer rates by 2%. This motion was seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

First motion to amend main motion: Councilor Gordon made a motion to amend the main motion to increase the sewer rates by 0% and the water rates by 1% (instead of 2% each). This motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger.

- e. Councilor Huff-Larmond understands what Councilor Gordon is trying to accomplish with those rates, however everything is increasing from gas prices to groceries.
- f. Town Manager Howard shared details on the costs that come with the water and advises against a 0% increase. Town Manager gave a brief timeline on the water treatment plant.
- g. The councilors shared their opinions on how they would like to see the town move forward with the water rates to continue planning for future water needs. They spoke on taking money from stabilization versus retained earnings and gave reasoning behind their thoughts. The council spoke on the importance of having good water quality in town.
- h. Councilor Thompson asked for clarification on if you use 2501 cubic feet, if only one over is charged at the new rate or if all water use is? Mr. Abrahams stated it is for anything above and beyond 2500 that the higher rate is applied.
- i. Councilor Burgess mentioned that residents who are struggling with their bills, speak with the tax collector and they can work with you.

Second motion to amend main motion: Councilor Egan moved to amend the main motion to increase the water and sewer rates by 5% each (instead of 2% each). This motion was seconded by Councilor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote on the first motion to amend the main motion: 3-6-0 (Yays: Clerger, Huff-Larmond, Gordon; Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan, O'Connell, Thompson)

Motion fails.

Councilor O'Connell moved to call the question. This motion was seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

Roll call vote: 7-0-2 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson; Nays: None; Abstentions: Clerger and Gordon)

Motion passes.

Roll call vote on the second motion to amend the main motion: 4-5-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan; Nays: Clerger, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson)

Motion fails.

Roll call vote on the main motion: 3-5-1

Yays: Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson

Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan, Gordon

Abstentions: Clerger

Motion fails.

Second main motion: Councilor Burgess moved to increase the water and sewer rates by 3% each. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll call vote on the second main motion: 4-5-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, O'Connell; Nays: Clerger, Egan, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, Thompson)

Motion fails.

Third main motion: Councilor Gordon moved to increase the water and sewer rates by 1% each. This motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll call vote on the third main motion: 3-6-0 (Yays: Clerger, Gordon, Huff-Larmond; Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan, O'Connell, Thompson)

Motion fails.

Fourth main motion: Councilor Burgess moved to increase the water and sewer rates by 4% each. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

First motion to amend the fourth main motion: Councilor Thompson moved to amend the fourth main motion by increasing the water and sewer rates by 2.5% each (instead of 4% each). This motion was seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

Roll call vote on the first motion to amend the fourth main motion: 3-6-0 (Yays: Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson; Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Clerger, Egan, Gordon)

Motion fails.

Second motion to amend the fourth main motion: Councilor Huff-Larmond moved to increase the water and sewer rates by 2% each. This motion was seconded by Councilor Thompson.

Roll call vote on the second motion to amend the fourth main motion: 5-4-0 (Yays: Clerger, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson; Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan)

Motion passes.

Third motion to amend the fourth main motion: Councilor Burgess moved to increase the water rates by 2.5% and sewer rates by 3% (instead of 2% each). This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll call vote on the third motion to amend the fourth main motion: 3-6-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Burgess, Egan; Nays: Brewer, Clerger, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson)

Motion fails.

Roll Call on the fourth main motion (which, as amended is to increase the rates by 2% each): 5-4-0 (Yays: Clerger, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell, Thompson; Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan)

3. Council Order 2026-046: FY2027 Water and Sewer Enterprise Budget
 - a. Council Order 2026-046 was introduced by Town Manager Howard on June 8, 2026. This order is to approve the Water and Sewer Enterprise Budget for FY2027.
 - b. Council President Egan opened the public comments portion of the public hearing
 - i. Sandi Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: wondering what the rate of return of the money in the stabilization fund is? Town Manager Howard would need to look into the annual average for this.

- c. President Egan closed the Public Comments portion of the Public Hearing and opened it up to the Council for Comments.
 - i. Councilor Burgess asked for the difference in Council Order 2026-048 and 2026-048A. Town Attorney Griffin says that 2026-048A, has language that more aligns with the use of the stabilization account. The main reason is to ensure the funds are spent on water only and not sewer costs. However, the Town Manager stated currently we are looking to approve Council Order 2026-046 which is a separate motion from 2026-048A.
 - ii. Town Manager asked Town Attorney Griffin for legal clarity on voting 2026-046 before 2026-048A. Town Attorney Griffin stated that until 2026-048A is voted the budget would not be in balance. President Egan asked that if 2026-048A was voted later in this meeting, would that be sufficient? Town Attorney Griffin believes that would be fine.

Motion: Councilor Thompson motioned to approve Council Order 2026-046. This motion was seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

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

Motion passes.

- iii. Councilor Burgess asked the Town Attorney, through the President, if this was a valid motion. Town Attorney Griffin stated that the motion passed and gave the council their options to rectify.

Motion: Councilor O'Connell moved to take Council Order 2026-048 out of order. This motion was seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- 1. Council Order 2026-048: Transfer from Water Stabilization to Support Water and Sewer Rates
 - a. Town Manager Howard spoke on this order which is to use money from Water Stabilization to support the water rates.
 - b. This order originally stated a transfer of \$2,000,000 dollars but with the 2% water and sewer rates that were voted the money needed to make the budget whole is \$1,274,385.

Motion: Councilor Burgess moved Council Order 2026-048A as read by the Town Attorney. This motion was seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-2-0 (Nays: Egan and Gordon)

Motion passes.

- c. Councilor Gordon spoke on taking the money from retained earnings versus water stabilization funds. Councilor Gordon would like to take the funds from retained earnings instead of stabilization as stated in Council Order 2026-048A. Councilor Gordon requested to amend the order to Town Manager Howard, however the request was not supported.
- d. Town Manager Howard does not support using retained earnings or free cash for this since the water stabilization account is meant for this exact purpose. Town Manager Howard also stated that we use retained earnings throughout the year for other water distribution related costs which we cannot use the stabilization funds for.

Public Comments

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

1. Sandi Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: mentioned that speeding is still happening even with the new stop sign and street painting. Ms. Cohen would like an update on speed bumps. Gave thanks to Councilor Huff-Larmond for the Juneteenth event. She also has concerns with residents parking cars on their lawns.

There were no more public comments.

Proclamations: None

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions: None

Old/Unfinished Business (Continued):

2. Council Order 2026-044: Approval to Apply for MassDEP's Clean Water Trust State Revolving Loan Program
 - a. Council Order 2026-044 was introduced by Town Manager Howard on June 8, 2026. This Council Order was advertised in the Patriot Ledger on June 13, 2026. Council Order 2026-044 is for borrowing to continue operations for identifying Lead Service Lines. This borrowing comes with the possibility of up to 40% loan forgiveness.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to approve Council Order 2026-044. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 8-1-0 (Nays: Egan)

Motion passes.

3. Council Order 2026-052: Amendment of Section 18-3 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning Department Revolving Funds - DPW Utility Revolving Fund
 - a. Council Order 2026-052 was introduced by Town Manager Howard on June 8, 2026. The legal notice was published in the Patriot ledger on June 13, 2026. This Council Order is to create a revolving fund for the DPW in regard to expenses that support paving operations.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to approve Council Order 2026-055. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 8-1-0 (Nays: Egan)

Motion passes.

4. Council Order 2026-051: Amendment of Section 18-3 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning Department Revolving Funds - Community Programs Revolving Fund
 - a. Council Order 2026-051 was introduced by Town Manager Howard on June 8, 2026. The legal notice was published in the Patriot ledger on June 13, 2026. This Council Order is to create a revolving fund for Community Programs.

Motion: Councilor Huff-Larmond motioned to approve Council Order 2026-051. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

New Business (Continued) :

1. Council Order 2026-055: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for Various Purposes
 - a. Town Manager Howard introduced this Council Order and went through the list of uses the Free Cash would be used for. Town Manager Howard withdrew the \$300,000 request for the school roof and interior work.
 - b. Councilor O'Connell asked about how many buses this would purchase? And if there is any value on the old ones. Michael Mason from the School Finance Department stated that the older buses do not have any value. Councilor O'Connell then asked if the buses are leased or owned, they are owned by the town.
 - c. Councilor Burgess asked about the field security and lighting at the new field.
 - d. Councilor Thompson asked about a fleet/bus maintenance plan. Mr. Mason stated that the buses go get maintenance.
 - e. Councilor Alexopoulos asked if the new buses would be gas or diesel. Mr. Mason stated currently the buses are diesel but they are looking into gasoline ones since they are cheaper. Councilor Alexopoulos then asked how many buses are on fleet? Mr. Mason stated that there are 48 buses, 4 of which are new.
 - f. Councilor Egan would like to review the maintenance plan as a stipulation to the funds being given.

Main motion: Moved by Councilor Alexopoulos and seconded by Councilor Clerger, to approve Council Order 2026-055.

Motion: President Egan moved to amend the language of the Purchase of New Buses/Vans for the School Department Transportation Program to Read, To Fund the Purchase of New Buses/Vans for the School Department Transportation Program Conditional upon Receipt of Bus/Fleet maintenance plans. This motion was seconded by Councilor Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Roll Call Vote on the main motion: 8-1-0 (Nays: Burgess)

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2026-056 FY2027 Revolving Fund Spending Authorization
 - a. Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 206-056 which is an annual vote to set the spending limits for the revolving accounts.
 - b. Councilor Burgess asked for an operational plan for these accounts. Town Manager Howard stated that he would get that information for Councilor Burgess.

Motion: Moved by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos, to approve Council Order 2026-056.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

3. Council Order 2026-057 Transfer of General Fund Free Cash to Stabilization

- a. Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2026-057 which is a transfer from Free Cash to Stabilization.

Motion: Moved by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos, to approve Council Order 2026-057.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

4. Copy of Council Order 2026-058 Amendment of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph To Create an Affordable Housing Trust
 - a. The Town Manager introduced this order. The Town Planner, Michelle Tyler appeared in front of the Council previously to give an overview of the Affordable Housing Trust. This was introduced only and was referred to the Zoning and Ordinance Subcommittee for review.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Announced the new hours at Town Hall. Tuesday nights Town Hall will be open until 7 pm and on Friday Town Hall will close at 1 pm.
2. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked about the football field having hours. The Town Manager stated that any use of the football field should be used by private rentals or the Randolph Athletic Department. The plan is to have Key cards that will allow access into the field area. Councilor Alexopoulos added that field security has been speaking on this topic in the Appointments, Operations and Oversight Subcommittee.
3. Councilor Huff-Larmond stated that Belcher Park is having issues with use of their field as well.
4. President Egan gave kudos to the Town Manager for his work and dedication with the new water treatment plant.

Correspondence: None

Subcommittee Reports: None

Council Comments:

1. Councilor Clerger: will be hosting an Independence Day dinner at the Igbo House on July 3rd from 6-9 pm. She stated attendees must wear red white and/or blue to enter.
2. Councilor Gordon: Juneteenth and Flag raising events were well attended. Councilor Gordon spoke on creating a resolution to help bring back the Night Before the Fourth Parade as well as a petition.
3. Councilor O'Connell: Firefighter Sunday was a success.
4. Councilor Burgess: spoke on the Veterans' Council who was previously involved in planning and fundraising for the parade.
5. Councilor Brewer: Firefighter Sunday was great.
6. Councilor Alexopoulos: Blue Devils are fundraising for their upcoming season trainings. There is a GoFundMe link circulating and they are canning at the gas station.
7. Councilor Thompson: Juneteenth event was cool. Councilor Thompson wanted to remind residents to be respectful of campaign signs on properties. Campaign signs are not allowed on Town Property.
8. Councilor Huff-Larmond: Summer intern program is starting soon. Thanks to all who came and supported the Juneteenth Event. South Shore Caribbean Connection will be hosting a scholarship dinner in memory of Jaylin Rainford on June 27th. The Pride festival will be held on June 27th.

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 8-1-0 (Nays: Burgess)

Meeting adjourned.

The Town Council Meeting adjourned at 10:33 pm.

Notification of Upcoming Council Meetings:

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24

September 14 and 28

October 5 and 19

November 2 and 23

December 7