



Town Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

The public is invited to attend this meeting remotely only, via phone or computer. In order to maintain safe social distancing guidelines, no physical presence will be allowed at this time. The Town website will be updated on the day of the meeting with the phone and computer access instructions.

Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance: Council President W. Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos, William Alexopoulos, James Burgess, Richard Brewer, Natacha Clerger, Kenrick Clifton, Ryan Egan, Jesse Gordon, and Katrina Huff-Larmond.

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

Moments of Silent Prayer: A moment of silent prayer held.

Presentations:

1. ARPA Survey Results

Town Manager Brian Howard provided information on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Survey results. The survey opened on January 31st and Closed on March 11th. It was made available in many languages, contained ten questions, and was modeled after several communities that have had success with receiving responses. Responses were collected via Google Forms and paper surveys. There was also an option for those taking the survey to add additional items if they wanted to. The survey was distributed and advertised through several different mechanisms such as posting flyers with QR codes in local businesses, social media, the Randolph Public Schools sent out robo texts and calls, and much more. There was a lot of diversity in terms of who responded to the survey.

Since the pandemic began, many things have changed and been impacted, thus leading to an increase in the need for assistance in mental health services, mortgage assistance, direct cash assistance, food assistance, and utility assistance. Similarly, critical issues that have been identified consist of, streets and sidewalks, lack of affordable housing, crime/illegal activity/safety issues, and too much litter/trash or the presence of illegal dumping.

Some areas this funding can be used for are to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, address the negative economic impacts the community has experienced as a result of COVID-19, assist in disproportionately impacted areas, offset reductions in local government revenue due to COVID-19, invest in water and or sewer infrastructure, invest in broadband infrastructure. The funds cannot be used for tax reductions or cuts, pension fund payments/deposits, legal settlements, to meet federal grant match requirements, roads, and bridges. On ARPA priorities, the number one topic was investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The Town Council proposed a water treatment plant, road

work, public safety, and mental health support. The town department heads proposed a generator at Randolph Intergenerational Community Center, Town website upgrades, additional ambulances, a digital marketing sign at Crawford Square, and many more good ideas.

We have about thirty million dollars in funds, and the water treatment plant will be 28 million because of inflation, etc. Yes, thirty million dollars is a lot of money, however, it is crucial to use it wisely. I will be coming back to present how I propose we begin spending the funds to the Town Council.

Councillor Clifton requested clarification on how much of the ARPA funds Town Manager Howards intends to spend towards the new water treatment plant.

Councillor Huff-Larmond asked about the possibility of putting together a Committee including community members to assist in deciding how to spend the ARPA funds.

Councillor Gordon recommended using some of the strategies the City of Chelsea has used that involved various community members including its boards and agencies to assist in deciding how to spend the ARPA funds.

Public Hearings:

1. Request for Pole Replacement 136 Canton Street

Council President Alexopoulos: Joe Cardinal, Manager of National Grid, is formally requesting a delay of the grant of location request for Canton Street. They will resubmit the request at a later date.

Motion to allow the applicant to withdraw the request for Pole Replacement at 136 Canton Street without prejudice, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Public Comments:

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: We should make sure that we have a capital plan in place for things we need. I agree the ARPA funds should go to the water treatment plan.

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions:

1. Council Order 2022-015: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash To Law Department - Expenses

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2022-015. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order and provided a brief explanation regarding the purpose of the Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2022-015 as presented made by Councillor Clifton, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2022-016: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for Purchase of Police Vehicles

Council President Alexopoulos read Council Order 2022-015. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order and provided a brief explanation regarding the purpose of the Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2022-016 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

3. Resolution 2022-002: Concerning PFAS Filtration

This Resolution is being introduced by Councillor Gordon and Councillor Clerger. Additional information was provided regarding the purpose of this Resolution.

Based on a discussion of the Town Council, Councillor Gordon has removed the following portions of Resolution: “NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Randolph Town Council supports exploration of the cost and risk of replacing 50% of the existing water filter material with GAC at the Randolph/Holbrook water treatment plant; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the costs and risks are reasonable, that the Randolph Town Council would encourage the Joint Board to adopt measures to replace the existing water filter material with GAC in one or more of the eight water filters over a period of one or more months at the Randolph/Holbrook water treatment plant; and”

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-002 as amended by Councillor Gordon, made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor Clifton.

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

Motion passes.

4. Resolution 2022-003: Concerning PFAS Testing

This Resolution is being introduced by Councillor Gordon and Councillor Clerger. Additional information was provided regarding the purpose of this Resolution.

Motion to approve Council Order 2022-003 as presented made by Gordon, seconded by Councillor Clifton.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent during vote: C. Alexopoulos, Clerger, Egan)

Motion passes.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Thank you to everybody in the community who supported the student-athletes of Randolph High School who won the state championship in basketball on Saturday. Job well done by the coaches and the parents

Correspondence:

1. Council President Alexopoulos received a letter from a resident, Rockefeller Fitzgerald, on Morgan Street. The letter requests for the road to be repaved and to install a speed bump. The resident is blind and can walk independently daily, but it would be helpful to have a speed bump to have cars slow down.

Motion to amend the traffic rules and regulations to allow for the temporary installation of a speed bump at the location requested by Mr. Fitzgerald made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion passes.

2. Council President Alexopoulos received a letter from a Randolph resident regarding loud noise in the summertime and asked if we had ways of deterring that type of nuisance in the early morning hours or late night. A discussion of the Council was held concerning policies and procedures of the police department being able to issue a citation for ordinance violations.

Committee Reports:

1. Human Services/Seniors/Recreation Subcommittee Meeting: Councillor Gordon provided an update on this Subcommittee: At our next meeting we plan to discuss bringing back the Boards and Committees that have been kind of dormant during the pandemic.

Open Council Comments:

Councillor Gordon: 1. Thank you all for participating in the PFAS discussion. 2. I think the upcoming Master Plan and Implementation Committee and Recreation Committee meetings will result in a few Council Orders coming before the Council and I look forward to hearing the public's input.

Councillor Clerger: 1. Thank you to Town Manager Howard for joining me in the recent Senior Celebration. Seniors are the backbone of society and they continue to pave the way for us and the next generation. 2. Haitian Flag Raising will take place on Wednesday, May 18, 2024 and in the afternoon, we'll have a parade from Town Hall to the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center. 3. On April 20th, we will be celebrating health care workers so please keep an eye out for more details.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Congratulations to the Randolph High School basketball team. We are so proud of you. 2. The Randolph Youth Council is working on a project with the Randolph Police Department so stay tuned.

Councillor Brewer: The Turner Free Library has a few events planned. We are celebrating National Poetry Month by submitting your poetry work by April 15. 2. There will also be a spring cleaning class on Saturday. There are lots of different activities happening during April vacation week at the Turner Free Library and the Randolph Intergeneration Community Center. You can register for all of these events online.

Councillor Clifton: Kudos to the Randolph High School students for winning their second state championship in four years. A special shout out to the parents who keep up with the kids practices and their games.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: 1. Congratulations to the High School Boys Basketball team. They did a great job. 2. Congratulations to the Elk's Lodge's new Exalted Ruler, Susan. They held their event last Saturday to install the new exalted Ruler and I want to wish them the best of luck. 3. Thank you to Town Manager Howard for flying the Greek Flag for Greek Independence Day. It is very appreciated.

Executive Session:

Council President Alexopoulos read the following: The Town Council may vote to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 30A, section 21(a)(3) relative to potential litigation strategy concerning the Town's Opioid Litigation claims and possible claims in National PFAS Litigation. M.G.L. ch. 30A, section 21(a)(3) permits a public body to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

The Chair so declared.

Council President Alexopoulos requested a vote for the Town Council to enter Executive Session.
Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Councillor Huff-Larmond).

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

The public portion of the Town Council meeting concluded, and the Council entered an executive session at 7:58 PM.