



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, March 18, 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 Vice-President Brewer called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Chris Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James F. Burgess, Jr. (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 Councillor Burgess.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- 1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting May 16, 2022**
- 2. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting March 4, 2024**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting on May 16, 2022, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-2 (Abstention: O’Connell and Thompson; Absent: W. Alexopoulos and Egan)

Motion passes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting on March 4, 2024, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O’Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-1 (Abstention: Burgess; Absent: W. Alexopoulos and Egan)

Motion passes.

Public Comments:

1. Vanessa Perry, 31 Hillsdale Road: I am concerned about the trail/walkway in front and beside my property.
2. Dominique Donna, 12 Hanover Circle: Are there any plans to open Stetson Hall?
3. Guerlince Semezler, 60 Mills Street: Will the Town entertain a proposal for a similar proposition?
4. Joe Burke, Hills Street: We need to see more information from the School Department regarding their Capital Plan.

Public Hearings:

- 1. 6:15 PM: Council Order 2024-010: Randolph Public Schools FY24 Capital Improvement Projects**

Council Order 2024-010 was introduced in the Town Council meeting on March 4, 2024. Council Vice President Brewer opened the public hearing for this matter. The legal advertisement was placed in the Patriot Ledger on March 13, 2024. Randolph Public School Superintendent Thea Stovell (Ms. Stovell) and School Facilities Director Paul Visconte (Mr. Visconte) were present to discuss the various projects to be completed through the Capital Improvement Plan and answer any questions.

Council Vice President Brewer opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.

1. Joe Burke, Hills Street: A question was raised concerning the process for appropriating the funds for these projects. Could someone do something about the bathroom locks in the stalls?

There were no more public comments. The public comments portion of the public hearing was closed. The hearing was opened to the Council for questions and comments.

1. Councillor Burgess: Roofs were discussed but there is no mention of a priority list for which roof will get done. Mr. Visconti: An estimate was done and it was determined that the Randolph High School was in the worst health for various reasons. According to the pictures we've recently gathered through drones, none of the roofs are within a ten-year shelf life. There's a big difference between roof replacement and roof maintenance. Councillor Burgess: I understand when buildings need to be maintained. I want to make sure we're not falling into any old habits that are not good for us. Ms. Stovell: We've patched the middle school and the high school during my time as superintendent. Before then, I had no records of additional work that was done other than patchwork. The reality is, that \$1 Million is not enough to cover all of them. We should consider going to the MSBA to have all school roofs repaired. Another priority is keeping our air quality up to par and making sure our HVAC systems are working so we can keep our buildings open and operational for our students and staff. I know there has been a conversation about getting a new high school so I don't think we want to replace a roof if that's going to happen.
2. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Is it possible to see the dollar amounts next to each project in the priority list?
3. Councillor O'Connell: I want to see where the money is going. There is a lot of information missing from this presentation. There is nothing about HVAC systems, HEPA filters, or anything about what is being replaced. Mr. Visconti: Every school has a different filtration system so in a lot of ways, we're starting from zero.
4. Councillor Thompson: Does everything in this presentation involve bidding or is there anything we can just go out and buy? Mr. Visconte: It would depend on the dollar threshold.
5. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Are we focused on getting in touch with organizations that help to ensure agencies of color are part of a bidding process?
6. Councillor Gordon: We're all struggling to prioritize within this funding. Energy efficiency components are all eligible under the green community program. I wonder if you're participating in that audit and if so, has it begun? Mr. Visconte: We are not but we would be happy to be a part of it.

Motion to continue the public hearing for Council Order 2024-010 to the next Town Council Meeting of April 1, 2024, at 6:14 PM made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 5-2-0 (Nays: C. Alexopoulos and Gordon; Absent: W. Alexopoulos and Egan)

Motion passes.

Town Manager's Report:

1. The Town's Annual Spring Hydrant Flushing program starts tonight. The schedule for which street will be flushed can be found on the Town's website.

2. I attended the Massachusetts Department of Transportation public hearing concerning the Canton Street Bridge. They took questions from the audience. The Canton Street Bridge will be unavailable from April 5th through April 8 and will begin at 8 PM on Friday through 4 AM on Monday. You will not be able to use the highway during this time. The School Department, Police, and Fire departments for both Randolph and Canton have put together a plan to work together through this project.
3. Councillor Huff-Larmond: Is there an update on the Assistant Town Manager position? Can we also make sure applicants are receiving a response and that there is an organized strategy to ensure that resumes are being filed appropriately? Town Manager Howard: The advertisement will be going up tomorrow. Soon, I will be seeking funds for a Human Resources Review. I agree that we need an organized system. Part of it is our current staffing.
4. I want to thank Congresswoman Pressley for her efforts in helping Randolph get \$950,000 to put toward the Water Treatment Plant.
5. Councillor Burgess requested improvements to the Reed Street sidewalks.

Motion to send a letter thanking her for all the work she has done she has been an extremely effective congresswoman made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion passes.

6. Councillor Gordon asked if the green energy audit could also get started for the school department. Town Manager Howard: We are working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for the green energy audit for the Town and can look into how to include the school department.

Old/Unfinished Business

1. **Council Order 2024-011: Local Acceptance of M.G.L. Ch. 60, Section 15B Regarding Tax Title Collection Revolving Funds**

This Council Order was introduced at the Town Council Meeting on March 4, 2024.

Motion to approve Council Order 2024-011 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.

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

Motion passes.

Correspondence:

1. Randolph Community Band is conducting a Concert, "Make it Swing!" on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM. For more information, please email randolphcommunityband@gmail.com.
2. Randolph Community Partnership is hosting its Annual 2024 Red Carpet Gala on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased by going to the Randolph Community Partnership, Inc. website or clicking on this link:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/randolphcommunitypartnershipinc/1151811>
3. Eversource Energy has issued the Eastern Massachusetts 2023-2027 Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for Eastern, MA. This treatment is conducted as a component of an integrated vegetation management program that uses the appropriate mechanical and herbicide treatments to control vegetation to encourage the growth of healthy ecological communities that benefit wildlife.
4. Through the work of the Town's Mass in Motion and Community Wellness Plan, SNAP/EBT-eligible Randolph families can now participate in the Digger Foods Program and receive home deliveries of produce sourced by local farms. To sign up, please call or text Lucy at 781-226-2906 (for English), Maria at 863-399-0788 (for Haitian Creole), or Rosa at 774-901-4046 for (Cape Verdean Creole).

5. Correspondence was submitted from former Randolph Resident, Judy Gangel, wishing to extend her concern and prayers for the safety and well-being of all residents in Randolph with family and friends in Haiti at this time.

Subcommittee Reports:

Councillor Burgess: I attended a STEM event at Donovan school and it was very hands-on and interesting because they had teachers from various schools participating.

Councillor Gordon: 1. As a follow-up to the Town Manager's report. regarding the recent Mass Department of Transportation meeting, yes, the State is responsible for maintaining 80 feet on either side and they will be repaving the sidewalks too. I also asked about trash cleanup in embankments and suggested that our Department of Public Works (DPW) has done this in the past which is called the State DPW periodically to suggest this would be a good time to do cleanup.

Council Comments:

Councillor Gordon: 1. I will be playing the baritone in the Randolph Community Band Concert! I promised I would rent a tuxedo for the event. 2. I've interacted with Rosemont Management as a representative of the tenants. I've also discovered the same chain of complaints at Randolph Housing Authority. There were many similarities and the main difference was that one corporation is privately managed and the other is managed by the State. I'd like to encourage residents to contact me if they are experiencing difficulty with their landlords.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: Please keep an eye out for when your street may be doing hybrid flushing.

Councillor O'Connell: Randolph Recreation is hosting its annual Egg Hunt on March 23, 2024, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/BunnyEggHunt24>.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. I attended the International Women's Day Luncheon hosted by the Randolph Women's Club. It was awesome. Thank you to the speaker, Master Chief Rashaan Morris for sharing your story 2. The Randolph Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coalition has been busy planning lots of upcoming things. We will be doing ESL classes for the families in shelters to help them be more successful in their journey. 3. The Pride Committee had its first meeting this week and is looking into doing a flag raising, having a community discussion, a pride festival, and pride church service at the First Congregational Church. 4. We are having discussions on how we can connect better with the American Asian Pacific Islanders community. 5. There are lots of fun things planned for Juneteenth. There will be lots of great tabling opportunities. 6. Randolph's Annual Clean-Up will take place on April 27, 2024. We are meeting at Randolph Town Hall at 8:00 AM. Please register in advance to secure a T-shirt! Contact Peggy Montlouis at 781-767-1406 or PMontlouis@randolph-ma.gov for more information. 7. The Spring of Water Christian Assembly Church is hosting a college readiness program at the Randolph Intergeneration Community Center on March 23, 2024, from 2-4 PM.

Council Vice-President Brewer: I attended a recent workshop to help Understand Medicare and found it very informative. There was all kinds of stuff to learn! There is another on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment:

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.