



## **Randolph Town Council**

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Monday, June 9, 2025, 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:** Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James Burgess (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (Via Zoom), 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**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting on April 28, 2025 made by Councillor Brewer, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-1 (Abstention: O’Connell; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

### **Announcements from the President**

1. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 Randolph High School on their graduation.
2. I’d also like to congratulate Saint Mary’s for their 175th anniversary. They had an event yesterday.
3. I’d like to thank Fire Chief Cassford and the Randolph Fire Department for their wonderful Firefighter Sunday that they host every year. It was well attended by the families of many of the active duty and retired firefighters.

### **Public Hearings:**

1. **Council Order 2025-015: Request for the Town Council to Initiate An Amendment to the Randolph Zoning Ordinance - Chapter 200 of the General Code of the Town of Randolph - Concerning Scientific or Research Laboratories**

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing for the Council Order 2025-015. This Council Order was introduced at the Town Council meeting on April 14, 2025 and referred to the Planning

Board. Town Manager Howard was accompanied by Assistant Town Manager Lamboy and Town Attorney Griffin to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order. The legal advertisements were published in the Patriot Ledger on May 23 and May 30, 2025.

Town Attorney Griffin: The Planning Board held their public hearing and sent a recommendation back to adopt this Council Order with amendments, so there is a second version of the Order here labeled Council Order 2025-015A. This is available for a vote tonight.

Assistant Town Manager Lamboy: The proposed zoning amendment allows for by-right zoning for scientific and research laboratories, and has an expedited permitting clause for clean energy, research, and design. One of the great aspects of this is being a green community which means that the Town will receive immediate grant funds upon approval, and we'll be eligible for additional competitive grant funds, moving ourselves towards energy sustainability. Assistant Town Manager Lamboy provided additional information regarding the Green Community Requirements, the specific proposed zoning amendments.

Councilor Burgess expressed concern regarding the specific districts this would impact.

Councillor O'Connell asked about appropriate timing for becoming a Green Community.

Councillor Gordon commented on short term versus long term benefits of becoming a Green Community.

Councillor Brewer commented on the districts being designated the appropriate zoning.

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing on this matter.

1. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: On the restricted zones, do we have any in the area that is doing research and development? Why are we so tardy in starting this process when so many other communities in the State have been involved with this?
2. Joe Burke, 54 Hill Street: Is there any property in the Town of Randolph that can hold those huge windmills? Did anyone check with the City of Boston on the electric vehicles?

There were no more public comments. The public comments portion of the public hearing was closed.

Motion to amend Council Order 2025-015 to not change the West Corners Business District from requiring a Special Permit from the Planning Board and allowing scientific or research laboratories by right, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

A discussion of the Council was held regarding this amendment. Councillor Burgess called the question.

Roll Call Vote: 6-1-1 (Nay: Thompson; Abstention: O'Connell; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-015A as amended made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-0 (Nay: O'Connell; Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

## **Public Comments:**

1. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: I would like a written explanation as to why the second part of the budget meeting was not publicly scheduled. 2. We need a speed bump on Pearly Evans Drive. There was a car going almost 55 mph. There are young families with children and pets moving onto this street. If we don't have a speed bump, there is going to be a serious accident. 3. We also have cars parked on lawns. No one seems to know that it's not legal and no one seems to know where to find this information. There needs to be communication about this whether its on billboards, or a flyer. 4. The traffic light at McDonalds which is a four-way intersection, when you're traveling Eastbound in the morning the sun is shining in your eyes you cannot see the flashing walking sign. I would like that looked into and rectified before someone gets hurt. 5. Who fixes sidewalks and who paints the hydrants?
2. Representative from Igbo Organization: I'm here to talk about our event happening next month. Thanks to the Town Manager who has been working with us and the question now is how can the Councillors help us. One thing we are contending with is one of the requirements for us to have police officers and 2 fire officers at the vent. We've been doing this event for many years and this will be our first time needing officers at the event. I understand the need because the event is growing, but we've never had to budget for that and the financial implication for us is big. It is August 19th, 2025 from Noon to 7 PM.
3. Unknown Individual: I am a recent graduate of Ursulane Academy, an all girls school in Dedham. Igbo Day has been an important part of my upbringing, and I look forward to it every summer. I've been involved from a young age through the Igbo school with other kids in the community. I intend on continuing to connect with my community and my culture as I grow older, and I'm just here to support my dad and help and ask for your support in making this event a success this year.
4. Guerlince Semezier, 60 Mill Street: With everything going on in the news, and many of the residents here are from other countries, does the Town have a contingency plan to support these families?

### **Motions, Orders and Resolutions,**

1. Councillor Gordon: I'd like to request a vote of the Council to add what I call the Blasting Council Order to the next agenda. The Blasting Order is about coming up with a means of the fire department and other relevant town agencies and having a list of vetted insurance agents who could oversee one's personal hiring of that agenda. Town Attorney Griffin provided her opinion on this Council Order.

Motion to add Council Order regarding blasting to an upcoming agenda made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-0 (Nays: Alexopoulos and Brewer)

Motion passes.

2. Motion to enter into executive session made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Burgess.  
Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

Town Attorney Griffin read the following statement: 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 anticipated 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.

### **New Business:**

**1. Council Order 2025-032: Authorization For Execution of Memorandum of Agreement Between The Town of Milton, Massachusetts and The Town of Randolph, Massachusetts For Implementation of The Municipal Energy Manager Grant**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-032 and was accompanied by Assistant Town Manager Monica Lamboy to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-032 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

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

Motion passes.

**2. Council Order 2025-033: FY2026 Water and Sewer Rates**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-033 and was accompanied by Department of Public Works Superintendent Niel McCole to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Mr. Abrahams provided a presentation on the Town of Randolph's Water and Sewer Rates including financial highlights for water and sewer, and scenarios for different rate options.

Councillor Gordon: This presentation was a lot clearer, thank you for that. We have the right to vote for the water and/or sewer rates separately. Can we vote on the tiers, like changing the cutoff number from 2,500 to lower for example? Mr. Abrahams: We have seen that but I wouldn't advise doing so unless there is a study related to that. Councillor Gordon: The MWRA number- is that all sewer? Mr. Abrahams: It is solely related to the sewer assessment.

Councillor O'Connell: What is the percentage that are under 1,000?

This Council Order will be continued to the Town Council meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:15 PM for a public hearing.

**3. Council Order 2025-034: FY2026 Water and Sewer Enterprise Budget**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-034 to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

This Council Order will be continued to the Town Council meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025 PM for a public hearing.

**4. Council Order 2025-035: Transfer of Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-035 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-035 as presented made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

**5. Council Order 2025-036: Transfer of Free Cash and Retained Earnings to OPEB**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-036 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-036 as presented made by Councillor Brewer, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

**6. Council Order 2025-037: Transfer of Free Cash to FY2025 Debt Budget**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-037.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-037 as presented made by Councillor Brewer, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

**7. Council Order 2025-038: Transfer of Free Cash to FY 2025 Snow and Ice Budget**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-038.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-038 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

**8. Council Order 2025-039: Transfer of Free Cash to FEMA Grants**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-039 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Councillor Gordon asked for additional information regarding government funding in this matter.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-039 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

**9. Council Order 2025-040: Transfer of Ambulance Receipts for CPR Machines**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-040.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-040 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.  
Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

#### **10. Council Order 2025-041: FY2025 Budget Transfers**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-041 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Councillor Burgess asked for additional information regarding the Conservation line item.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-041 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Thompson.  
Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

#### **11. Council Order 2025-042: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for HVAC System**

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-042 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

The Council had a discussion regarding the needed HVAC work to be done in Town Hall.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-042 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gordon.  
Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)  
Motion passes.

#### **Correspondence:**

1. The Massachusetts State Lottery submitted its intent to install a monitor at the following locations: Colonial Shop & Save 907 North Street Randolph, MA 02368; Richdale 27 Warren Street Randolph, MA 02368; and AAZZ Market & Cafe 19 Highland Avenue Randolph, MA 02368.
2. RANDOLPH DAY! Saturday, June 21, 2025 from 1 PM to 3 PM at the Zapustas Arena Parking Lot, 240 North Street, Randolph, MA, 02368
3. Randolph's 2025 Night Before the 4th Parade - Parade Kick Off at 7 PM on July 3, 2025

#### **Subcommittee Reports:**

1. Councillor O'Connell reported on the School Committee and requested a procedure on implementing My School Books to the Randolph Public School system.
2. Councillor Gordon requested an Economic Development/Small Business/Real Estate meeting be scheduled next Monday, June 16 at 6:00 PM.

#### **Council Comments:**

1. Councillor Gordon: 1. The budget process was very closed to the public this year. 2. At Memorial Day festivities last weekend, it was announced that the Randolph High School marching band was invited to represent the Town at national level at Washington DC. They are actively fundraising .
2. Councillor Burgess: It should be a community wide supported event to support the Randolph High School marching band.
3. Councillor Brewer: I was able to attend Firefighter Sunday. I'm proud of the fire service we have in this Town. I look at the equipment and professionalism and feel very confident in our department.
4. Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. Juneteenth celebration is happening on June 19 at 12 PM at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center; 2. Pride events are happening from June 27-29; 3. The Randolph Youth Council held a mental health and substance misuse event and they did a great job. I'm extremely proud of them.; 4. The Randolph Community Partnership is hosting their annual Gala this Thursday at 6:00 PM. This year Dave Harris will receive an award.
5. Councillor O'Connell: Randolph High School and the Randolph Police Department are hosting a community softball game @ 11 AM, Saturday, June 14, 2025. Donations are going towards the schools' sports and music programs; 3. I joined my fellow Councillors at the Firefighter event. 4. The Randolph High School had their graduation on Sunday. It's awesome seeing all the kids go over the state and throw their hats in the air. It feels so good being in that environment. Keep up the good work.
6. Councillor Thompson: On Saturday, June 28, 2025 I'll be driving around district two with the Randolph Police Department handing out ice cream for a community enhancement event. We'll go to different apartment buildings and a few other neighborhoods.

### **Executive Session**

The Council President announced that the Council would enter the 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 8:15 PM.