



Town of Randolph

Town Hall
41 South Main Street
Randolph, MA 02368

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Monday, July 25, 2016

7:00 PM

Chapin Hall
Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Call to Order - Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Adams called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance led by the Randolph police officers.

Present: 7 - Council Member Paul J. Meoni, Council President Jason R. Adams, Council Member James F. Burgess Jr., Council Member Paul K. Fernandes, Council Vice President Kenrick W. Clifton, Council Member Arthur G. Goldstein and Council Member Edward Gilbert,

Absent: 2 - Council Member William Alexopoulos and Council Member Andrew Azer

Moment of Silent Prayer

Announcement from Council President

Councilor Adams - Phase Two water ban starting. Lack of rain over the last weeks, months.

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions

Minutes from 05/09/16 Meeting

Attachments: [2016-05-09 Meeting Minutes](#)

Councilor Goldstein moved to accept the minutes from the 5/9/16 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote 7-0-0.

Swearing in of Police Officer Promotions

Police officer promotions presented by Chief Pace. Sworn in by Town Clerk Brian Howard. William McNamara to Lieutenant and Jason Fisher to Sergeant.

Presentation

NAACP Presentation - Reggie Nunnally and Juan Cofield (President, New England Area Conference)

Presentation by Juan Cofield (President, New England Area Conference) and Reginald Nunnally (Chairperson Economic Development Committee) establishing the Blue Hill Branch (Milton, Randolph, Stoughton, Canton and Sharon) of the NAACP. Number of people requesting educational and economic development - help small businesses grow. Education is key to get out of poverty. Opposes charter schools, supports high quality schools. \$30 annual fee. Major membership drive to 800 businesses in the area. Asked that applications not be done on line, paper applications - available at the Town Manager's office.

Interview

Consideration of Applicants for Position of Town Accountant and Possible Authorization to Enter Into Contract Negotiations for Said Position.

Councilor Adams, Councilor Goldstein and Town Manager Murphy interviewed the two finalists two Saturdays ago.

Anne McNaughton is the first to be interviewed while Lisa Higgins is in the hallway:

Ms. McNaughton - 10 years of town accountant experience, recently with West Bridgewater for 8 years, prior to that Hull for 2 years.

Councilor Burgess - Who is the subcommittee that did the interviews?
Councilor Adams - Myself, Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Murphy. Anything you want to add? Councilor Goldstein - No, she has the background and experience, we went through approximately 45 resumes and there were 3 candidates we were considering, 1 candidate accepted another position and these are the two most qualified.

Councilor Burgess to Ms. McNaughton - Schedule 19, are you familiar with that? That's the school report? Yes, how would you tackle that to make sure correct. School business officer would do the report and I would do the Schedule A for the town departments, they report theirs directly to the Department of Education and I report mine to the Department of Revenue. If there was a discrepancy, how would you handle? Probably ask my DOR representative because I have not had that experience before.

Councilor Clifton to Ms. McNaughton - What do you know about Randolph and what do you think of this town as a community? Grew up in Stoughton, fond childhood memories. Seen the changes over the years, form of government, better system. I have a very unique approach, very helpful with department heads and their budgets, excellent community/technology skills, team oriented approach.

Councilor Fernandes to Ms. McNaughton – Quick idea of what your first 30 days would be like. Meet with people, go over all of the financial reports, look at where they are in the process of closing the books. Make lists, as things come up write them down, make arrangements to have auditors come back.

Councilor Goldstein to Ms. McNaughton - It is my recollection that you are not using Munis? I have not used Munis, would need to learn, quick learner.

Councilor Burgess to Ms. McNaughton - Are you aware of the range? Yes, it was on the MMA.

Lisa Higgins is the second to be interviewed while Anne McNaughton is in the hallway:

Councilor Goldstein - Interviewed Lisa, she does have Munis experience, works for the Commonwealth, has done a job similar to this before.

Ms. Higgins - Just to elaborate, 20 years both sides of the fence, large and small municipalities. Works for the DOR, knows how municipal operations are to be run, maintained, etc. Know that everyone is being asked to do more with less. Have Munis experience, implemented the system, babysat, shepherded.

Councilor Goldstein to Ms. Higgins - Your roll in the budget process? Handheld individuals in charge of that, fostered, given advice. Accountants more than number pushers. Capital planning, budget, grants, full spectrum, wore lots of hats; lucky over the years to have a lot of different challenges.

Councilor Gilbert to Ms. Higgins - What is your roll in the Commonwealth? Financial services side, more like the treasury. Not in the local service division but tied in with the local service division. Another facet to my position is to award local aid to the communities. Handle audits, engagements with other state agencies.

Councilor Burgess to Ms. Higgins - How would you handle a discrepancy in Schedule 19 between School department and the town side? Schedule 19, you mean their end of year reporting? Schedule 19 where we have to determine the town share of the budget. It's back to basics to find out where the anomaly came up, where it arose, what components fit into that and if there is something that shows itself. At the end of the day if there is a difference of opinion between the school department and the town side, how would you handle that? Again accountants by nature should be objective. Value the role of finance to be a resource, giving everybody all the information so they can both understand and truly understand it to every level, leave it to the powers to be. But as the powers to be don't you have a

role in that? Yes, I do but the best role that I can have is to give everyone all the information and all the alternatives that may or may not be available. How and who would you notify of this difference of opinion? First of all depends on what the level it is. My direct reports, the Town Manager, the Council, the school specifically. I do not have any problem notifying them that there is something I am not understanding or something looks a little different and figure it out together.

Councilor Clifton to Ms. Higgins - What do you know about Randolph and why would you want to work in our community? Over the years I have been in town hall before, undertaking huge projects, read some of the budget presentations from the website, have a lot of innovative things coming up. Enjoyed working in municipalities, miss it. Liked the variety of different things that a finance person gets involved with. Grant writing, capital improvement, budget.

Councilor Meoni to Ms. Higgins - What is your earliest start date? Thinking around Labor Day. In the middle of a close at the state level, want to give everyone as much notice and consideration as I can. You are aware of the salary range? I am, Mr. Adams went over that with me. Is that acceptable to you? It is.

Councilor Fernandes to Ms. Higgins - Can you give us a quick synopsis of your first 30 days working here would be? Meet department heads, what their expectation is, meet and greets, 1:1s, get comfort levels established and immediate concerns.

Councilor Burgess to Ms. Higgins - Do you have any objection to annual appointments? Top of my head no, I have always had contracts.

Ms. McNaughton was brought back into the room and seated with Ms. Higgins. Councilor Burgess requested a short recess to talk to Attorney Griffin.

Councilor Fernandes - Would like to move that we move the selection for this position to our very next meeting and make a decision and voice our decision at that point. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Before I make a decision would like to take a little more time and come back at our next meeting. Vote 7-0-0.

Public Comments

Kerby Roberson - Candidate for State Representative in Randolph, lives in Milton. Intergenerational Community Center, great looking forward step. Glad it happened. If I am honored by the votes in Randolph, I will be your partner, listen very well, quick study. Looking forward to meeting the councilors I have not met before.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager David Murphy:

- 1) Save the date: construction ground breaking celebration for the Community Center is 8/8/16 at 6pm. Ceremony on site, recreation bringing in moon houses, DJ to turn it into an event.
- 2) Conceived by Ms. Tyler, Faces of Randolph Art Mosaic. All ages, not just kids. Will be featured inside the lobby of the community center. Download the form off the website.
- 3) Mixed emotions that not only a co-worker but a dear friend is retiring after 38 1/2 years. Linda Sproules is formally retiring. One person institution in this building, community, stepped up to the plate time and time again to help people. Will be very much missed. Hope to bring her back in a limited role. Councilor Burgess - She has been unbelievable at her job, has had the back of every selectman, councilor and the institution. The town should be ever grateful. She makes us look good. Linda thank you very much for your service, you will be so missed.

Councilor Clifton - Want to follow up on the athletic field where some residents are not taking care of the facility and debris is all around, bicycles on the track, leaving hurdles instead of putting them away. Concerned with lack of care and attention. Town Manager Murphy - Something that brings frustration, large amount of folks use it appropriately, need to protect the investment the town has made. Have had preliminary conversations with the schools, might have to extend to police department, need to do a better job. Councilor Burgess - When we opened one of the suggestions is the keycard, know who is there and have more responsibility, accountability. Not the role of the police department. Councilor Gilbert - Biggest issue is litter, tons of trash. Cigarette burns, carpet being pulled up, they take cover off sandbox and do not put it back on. Too bad we are having this conversation, expensive, wonderful asset. Perhaps key card system.

Councilor Adams - Notice the end of Highland Avenue where it intersects with Stoughton a lot of brush was cleared, towns doing or private? Clearing of an area there will have to speak with DPW, having overgrown encourages illegal dumping.

Old Business

None

New Business

Council Order 2016-021 Adoption of the Randolph Hazard Mitigation Plan

Attachments: [2016-021 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan \(2\) 3](#)
[Randolph Final Plan Update - FEMA APA 07-27-15](#)

Town Manager David Murphy presented. Request council approval and adoption, similar to what the open space plan is for the town, various departments working for a number of years, data on floodings, windstorms, talks about areas that are greater hazards. FEMA encourages communities to do this plan, structures are protected from hazards, allows us to be eligible to 3 different grant programs.

Councilor Goldstein - Move to accept the plan. Seconded by Councilor Fernandes. Vote 7-0-0.

Council Order 2016-022 Left Turn Only Sign and Lane On the Turn in the Center of Town onto North Main Street Heading Toward Union Street

Attachments: [2016-022 Left Turn Only Sign and Lane](#)

Councilor Adams - Re-lining and repainting on roadways in town, one of them being in the center, we were able to go back in time and find the report for when we voted on the traffic rules and regulations and did see this as a left and a straight arrow. Spoke with Rich Brewer and he said within the next week a straight arrow would be added to the left hand lane.

Councilor Goldstein - Moved no action be taken on Council Order 2016-022. Seconded by Councilor Clifton. Speaking with our town attorney, this was just a painting error and it will be corrected. Vote 7-0-0.

Correspondence

None

Committee Reports

Library

Councilor Gilbert - Child nutrition program going on, 18 years and younger, free breakfast. Stetson Hall on 8/1 will be Malik, magic for all ages. Lot of stuff going on at the library.

School Committee

Councilor Clifton - Wednesday the adhoc committee to discuss charter school ballot will be meeting at 6pm. Looking at conducting a couple of activities, advocate for charters, someone not in support for charters, listen to both sides, community wide forum, so when we vote on 11/8 we are informed voters.

Councilor Fernandes - Is the meeting on Wednesday to hear both sides? No adhoc meeting.

Councilor Goldstein - Is it the desire of the school committee when done to come out with a public recommendation? Some folks believe school committee should not take a side, let voters decide for themselves. With all due respect, the school committee is elected to lead us and a recommendation would be best.

Council Comments

Councilor Fernandes - Will be delivering NAACP applications to town hall tomorrow morning.

Councilor Meoni - Hazardous Mitigation plan, no mention of the schools, speak with Mr. Anderson about property they are in charge off.

Councilor Gilbert - Pleasure to drive home and see progress at North Randolph Fire Station, interior/exterior walls going up, moving forward. Heading to Dolban site Wednesday, permits and update on blasting. Will send update out.

Adjournment

Councilor Goldstein - Motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor

Future Town Council Meetings

August 8, 2016
August 22, 2016
September 12, 2016
September 26, 2016
October 17, 2016
November 14, 2016
November 28, 2016
December 5, 2016
December 19, 2016