



Town of Randolph

Town Hall
41 South Main Street
Randolph, MA 02368

Meeting Minutes - Final

Town Council

Monday, September 12, 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 at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

Present: 8 - 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, Council Member Edward Gilbert and Council Member Katrina Huff-Larmond

Absent: 1 - Council Member William Alexopoulos

Moment of Silent Prayer

Moment of Silent Prayer.

Announcement from Council President

Councilor Adams - Big election last Thursday, no Randolph candidate won unfortunately. Bill Driscoll will work with us to be an excellent state representative serving Randolph's interests.

Swearing in of Katrina Huff-Larmond, Town Councilor

Swearing in of Katrina Huff-Larmond to Town Councilor. Town Clerk Brian Howard conducted the swearing in.

Councilor Huff-Larmond - Appreciative of the opportunity, of everyone at the table including the Town Manager and Brian Howard who openly gave me guidance and understanding. Very appreciative of my family and friends.

Councilor Adams - Thank you and look forward to working with you.

Councilor Fernandes - Welcome, a historic moment and wish you the best of luck.

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions

Minutes from the 1/4/16 Inauguration Ceremony for Elected Officials

Attachments: [01-04-2016 Inauguration Ceremony 2016 Minutes](#)

Councilor Goldstein made the motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Councilor Gilbert.

Councilor Burgess - Point of personal privilege, will the clerk please read the 9th paragraph out loud. Town Council Clerk Debra Ward read the 9th paragraph.

Vote 7-0-1 (Councilor Huff-Larmond abstaining)

Minutes from the 8/8/16 Meeting

Attachments: [08-08-16 Meeting Minutes](#)

Councilor Goldstein made the motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Councilor Gilbert.

Vote 5-0-3 (Councilor Huff-Larmond, Councilor Clifton and Councilor Meoni abstaining)

Minutes from the 8/22/16 Meeting

Attachments: [08-22-16 Meeting Minutes](#)

Councilor Goldstein made the motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Councilor Gilbert.

Vote 6-0-2 (Councilor Huff-Larmond and Councilor Clifton abstaining)

Public Comments

D.A. Hayden, 90 Silver Street - Sent a letter to Town Council asking for No Parking sign at the end of Silver Street. Elderly live on that street, there is drug deals going on, met with two members of the police department and they walked the site and both recommended putting a No Parking sign there. Out there weekly picking up drug paraphernalia and trash and have seen the cars there. Reason that I came this evening is know the process is a long one, here as a concerned citizen hoping to do something good for our neighborhood.

Councilor Burgess - Moved to take correspondence out of order and address D.A. Hayden's request. Councilor Gilbert seconded the motion. The resident is here, she stated her case, she is accurate, so if that is what

we are going to do in an hour why don't we do it while she is here.

Councilor Adams asked Town Council Clerk Ms. Ward to send the letter to the Safety Officer and have it by the next meeting.

Councilor Gilbert - Is it out of order for us to vote and approve from letter received from the Safety Officer? Town Manager Murphy - When letter came in last week reached out to Chief Pace about parking and drug activity and think their will be a formal response from the Police Department at the next meeting.

Councilor Goldstein - How is this different than the item scheduled for Public Hearing about No Parking signs? Councilor Adams - Very similar but one is on the agenda. One is a council order and this is not a council order? Not at the moment.

Councilor Adams - Motion on the floor is to take the correspondence out of order. Councilor Gilbert seconded the motion. Vote 5-3-0 (Councilor Clifton, Councilor Adams and Councilor Goldstein in the negative).

Councilor Burgess - Move to forward D.A. Haydens request off to the Safety Officer for a response by our next meeting. Councilor Fernandes seconded the motion. Vote 8-0-0.

Ida Gordon, School Committee President - Welcome Katrina to Town Council and an additional voice at the school committee; looking forward to working with you. Thank Town Council for participating in Charter School Meeting.

Ms. Robiteau, School Committee Member - Here to congratulate Katrina Huff-Larmond. Look forward to great things happening.

Old Business

7:15 PM - Public Hearing

Council Order 2016-024: No Parking Signs to Continue up to the Intersection of High Street and Canton Street on the Franklin Square Side of the Roadway (West Side)

Attachments: [Council Order 2016-024](#)

Council Clerk Debra Ward read notice published in the September 16, 2016 Patriot Ledger.

Public Hearing Public Comments:

Mr. Burke - Corner store on the right hand side, now that field is used quite a bit for little league, where are they going to park? Councilor Adams - There is a lot in the Middle School. That is always full. Councilor Fernandes - This is on the right hand side of the road, not left hand side. They use both sides of the street when there is a game going on. That side heading south has always been no parking. Parking for the field is the field side of the street.

Councilor Goldstein - Why do we want these signs? Town Manager Murphy - To improve safety of cars exiting the complex. Do not see the need for that. Additional parking at the middle school on the weekend, convenience of the residents or safety of the town?

Councilor Gilbert - High Street very busy, rocks on the side of the road, cars in front of your house.

Councilor Meoni - Already no parking signs on this side of the street, don't go all the way up the intersection. Trying to rectify here, no parking from Canton Street down where the softball diamond is.

Councilor Goldstein - With all due respect, looking at selective enforcement by the police. Several constituents who live on Michael Road have complained that cars fly down that street and haven't put any slow signs or anything. Councilor Adams - This appears to be one way we are fixing that issue.

Councilor Burgess - Did we request this? Town Manager Murphy - Originally came in from the Resident Association to the police. Police visited the site and requested that I bring it before the council.

Councilor Clifton - Just want to clarify, the police did some kind of investigation and they are recommending that signs be installed. Yes.

Councilor Goldstein - Do we have a copy of the letter from the police department? Council Clerk Ward handed copy of email received. Councilor Adams read the email. So from that it does sound like the events at the middle school would not be adversely affected. Councilor Goldstein - In the past we got specific letters from the Police Chief with all the information, not an email.

Councilor Fernandes - Motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilor Clifton. Vote 6-2-0 (Councilor Burgess, Councilor Goldstein in the negative).

Councilor Adams - Asked Council Clerk Ward to forward the request to the DPW.
accepted

Aye: 6 - Meoni, Adams, Fernandes, Clifton, Gilbert and Huff-Larmond

Nay: 2 - Burgess and Goldstein

Town Manager's Report

1) Phase 4 Water Ban: Tri-board meeting this week. Hoping contingency plans are not necessary; no outside watering, more information on the town website.

2) Master Plan Update Process: Putting together steering committee with the community, couple members of the council volunteered, school committee and resident of the community. If interested call or email the office.

3) Solar Array: Former landfill Solar array prepared for construction.

4) Construction Trades Job Fair: As part of the partnership for the new community center, contractor has on-line jobs and on 10/22/16 from 1pm to 3pm Constructions Trades Job Fair at Town Hall, Washington Room.

5) Faces of Randolph: Program ongoing, fun project, all ages 1 to 100. Information on town website.

6) Important Event: POW/MIA Chair in honor of Maureen Dunn. Prominent role in POW/MIA's, founder of the movement. On 9/24/16 conducting dedication ceremony, not just Maureen but the entire POW/MIA movements. Kevin Cook did a great job. 10am in front of Town Hall.

7) Welcome new councilor Katrina Huff-Larmond, look forward to working with you.

Councilor Clifton - Over the past several years we have engaged in discussions with respect that women owned, minority owned and locally owned business would be used and I want to commend the Town Manager on his initiative. Looked at a number of reports that have indicated that both the police and library renovations have had woman, minority and local participation.

Councilor Adams - Brief update on the construction of the facilities.

Town Manager Murphy - 1) Library - going well, on time on budget, Celebration first week in October. Well run, G&R Construction great

contractor to work with. Meaghan Thompson and the Trustees have done an excellent job. 2) Fire - continues along, working closely with project managers and construction company to deliver on time. Array of issues addressing. Coming down to the wire, end of October/November 1st being done. 3) Police - Town Council toured, going along well, on time and on budget. Paige Construction excellent job. 4) Community Center - November 2017 opening, ahead of schedule, steel being delivered next month. Very grateful to all the project teams.

Councilor Gilbert - Lights on police doors, will there be anything on South Main to identify police station? Yes, we are taking a pretty close look at traffic flow once renovations are completed.

Councilor Meoni - Phase 4, curious if any school education, conversations with Mr. Anderson have been done. Students could learn a lot about non-essential water. Excellent point, have not but scheduled to go to lunch this week and will discuss with Mr. Anderson. Councilor Burgess - When you have that discussion can you also discuss the deer hunt education piece for Donovan School. Yes.

New Business

Responses to the Devine School RFP

Town Manager Murphy - Two responses received for the RFP for Devine School. Provide a brief summary:

1) Cruz: Slight variation from last round. \$1.15M convert school buildings into Randolph Health Center, Blue Hills Practical Nursing Program and 62+ elderly housing and back lot 55+ housing (back field).

2) Sandler/Commito: proposing \$1M turn original wing of the school into 6 condos, propose demolishing the new wing (left hand side) and construct 60 different 1 and 2 bedroom townhouses on the back field.

Both deal with traffic and as I suggested my objective was to provide a summary/introduce the item with the hope that the applicants will be given the opportunity to present to you and answer any questions.

Councilor Goldstein - Looking at our schedule, we only have one meeting in October. Could I suggest we have a special meeting in October and invite both of the proposed purchasers to come in and make presentations to the council.

Councilor Burgess - Motion to leave the two proposals in front of full

council, seconded by Councilor Meoni.

Councilor Adams - Motion to not forward off to any subcommittees made and seconded, discussion.

Councilor Burgess - Significant project for the town, should the town decide they want to enter into either proposal. When brought to the Economic Development Committee there was other questions so we might as well have the groups come in and present to the council once. Should be advertised as a public hearing that way it skips the whole other process.

Councilor Fernandes - Option just proposed, would that be the meeting where the two applicants make their proposals. Meeting scheduled for 10/17/16, what day would you be proposing? Councilor Goldstein - Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday any week, make sure convenient for applicants.

Councilor Adams - Could we have them at the next meeting? Councilor Goldstein - Would like to give the entire meeting to them. Councilor Burgess - No objection to the one being a public meeting and the chair chooses to allow questions to come. What is on the agenda for the 17th? Nothing. Can we clear the 17th, should give them enough time. Councilor Goldstein - Do we want to give them a time limit? No.

Councilor Gilbert - Should we have just a meeting for this topic and allow the public to speak during that public meeting and then have a public hearing later and then we would vote. I think we need a full night.

Councilor Adams - We have the motion on the floor, whether to keep it before the full council. Vote 7-1-0 (Councilor Clifton negative).

Councilor Burgess - Move to dedicate 10/17/16 to hearing RFQs for the Devine School proposal and to allow the public an opportunity to participate in that meeting, seconded by Councilor Gilbert.

Councilor Gilbert - The next meeting would be 11/14/16 that is when we would have the public hearing? Councilor Burgess - Not necessarily, 10/17/16 if the council chooses to move aggressively then they could call another meeting on the 24th. Want to make sure all questions are answered, have to have a meeting to discuss that, any suggestions and then there has to be a public hearing.

Attorney Griffin - First question you will be asked to answer is which entity, if any, do you recommend the RFQ be awarded to. That will require a simple majority, not public hearing. Then the next thing asked to do is

authorize the sale of the land which will require a vote of 6 and a public hearing and then the zoning process will take place, which is a longer process.

Councilor Gilbert - What I am thinking of when it's awarded they will want permits quickly. Town Manager Murphy - RFQ awarding is the smallest step, sale of the land and zoning lengthy, constructions won't start until the spring.

Councilor Goldstein - I have a problem having it on the 17th, going to take the entire meeting and if any other council business comes before us no time. Great idea but should have just one meeting, just not a regular council meeting.

Councilor Meoni - Just to add to Mr. Goldsteins point, like the idea of having it on the 17th instead of the 24th then if work should be coming for us, perhaps we can all keep the 24th open in our calendars for a regular meeting and conduct business then.

Councilor Burgess - Move the question.

Councilor Adams - All in favor of moving the RFQs to the 17th, Vote 7-1-0 (Councilor Goldstein negative).

Proclamation: Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

Attachments: [Proclamation - Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools](#)

Councilor Goldstein - Would like to move that we accept the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Gilbert.

Councilor Adams read the Proclamation.

Councilor Goldstein - Would like to speak about a disingenuous ad made by the proponents of this. They say by passing Question 2 it will generate more money for public schools. That is disingenuous, money would come from the state whether we lift the charter schools or not. This is not saying get rid of charter schools, keep charter schools available for those parents who wish to get into the lottery and provide their child with a charter school education. Find that while charter schools work for some children, those who have severe IEPs or other issues are not accepted in charter schools and as a result they stay at the district level. The numbers we have now are sufficient to provide the education, in a perfect world there would be no

charter schools and our public schools would be perfect and meet all the needs of all the children. That is why I am opposed to Question 2.

Councilor Gilbert - We are not receiving greater local aid because of charter schools, local aid is a roller coaster ride, up and down. What bothered me is they have financial autonomy, they do not have to report their finances like the local public schools. Don't know money going in, where it's coming from. We don't know what they are paying their teachers, no fine arts or sports. Special education, they choked a few times answering the question. There are students who are suspended, expelled, asked to leave because they don't fit the charter school system, are sent back to the school system. What message is being sent to the child. I too, am against Question 2.

Councilor Meoni - Would like to amend but have a question for town attorney. Under the therefore statement should we pass this, could we also strengthen this to urge residents to vote no on Question 2? Town Attorney Griffin - I would recommend to leave it the way it's written. This was used by other towns, wiser to leave as is.

Councilor Clifton - Guided by my principals and convictions and what I truly believe what is in the best interest of the children and residents. Charter school discussions typically go into old stereotypical 1960 liberals and conservatives, occurs without giving proper weight to value education considerations such as high quality, equity, access to elite colleges and professional process. Zip code tiered based education, one for the poor and the working class and one for the rich and affluent. When I visit elite colleges I see no diversity, dominated by private school students and from affluent communities. Not the American way. Status Quo shall not stand. I cannot with good conscience approve this resolution.

Councilor Fernandes - Try to be fair minded, deep thinker when I make my votes and recommendations. At this meeting I asked the question your ad say it's going to bring more money into our schools, how do you do that and when they got through answering, I couldn't tell you what they said. We cannot return to separate but equal and this whole process is an attempt to turn us into those days and therefore I will not be supporting question 2.

Councilor Huff-Larmond - Attended forum, two systems or should we dedicate ourselves to one system. All of the funding would go into one system instead of two systems. When I think of charter schools I do not think of people of color because there are very little people of color at these charter schools. Picking and choosing their clientele and students and having a single focus of who they want to educate.

Councilor Goldstein - With all due respect to Councilor Clifton, we currently do have choice, there are a fair amount of charter schools. Each charter school is it's own district so if we have 100 charter schools there are 100 districts. All schools in Randolph are one district. Amount of oversight is minimum. Taking monies away from the town would leave less money to educate the students that for whatever reason choose not to go to a charter school. They want to stay. Expanding the charter schools is decreasing the assets we can give to our students who stay in our district. Have less marching band, athletics you name it. I am not saying do away with charter schools.

Councilor Clifton - Clarification, presently there are 41,000 attending charter schools, however there are 37,000 that are on a waiting list. Shows that there is a demand.

Councilor Burgess - Councilor Clifton has been consistent, one of the few councilors that has been consistently talking about raising that bar, looking at it as a local prospective; our system is failing our students, right when the School Committee cannot move in a direction that strengthens and improve the opportunities for our students. What I heard just now he was speaking for the Randolph students, consistent with that message. Give credit for your remarks tonight, strong.

Councilor Meoni - We have not funded public schools in the proper way, not the public schools that have done a disservice, it's society. Charter school movement making it worse. Put the money into our own public schools, I am voting no on Question 2.

Councilor Goldstein - What charter schools will do to Randolph: if there are more charter schools and parents choose to put those students into charter school, that will be less dollars available for public schools for student that are still here. If money is decreased because it's going to charter school, it will mean pick your choice, less money for education, less money for public safety or less money for DPW.

Councilor Clifton - It's not just a question of throwing money at school, we need to have a paradigm shift, think outside the box, come up with innovative plan and ideas to reach our children. I respectfully disagree with our colleagues, should be a choice for our voters and not a vote for the

Town Council.

Councilor Adams - Call the question. Councilor Goldstein - Roll call vote.

Vote: 6-2-0

Adams - Yes; Burgess - No; Clifton - No; Fernandes - Yes; Gilbert - Yes;
Goldstein - Yes; Huff-Larmond - Yes; Meoni - Yes

Correspondence

Councilor Burgess received a letter from Beverly Waters regarding High Street and Chestnut West (Rosemount apartments). Drivers fail to slow down for other autos, pedestrians trying to cross the street. Would feel safer if a signalized intersection could be installed. Councilor Burgess moved to forward the letter to the Public Safety Committee. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert.

Councilor Goldstein - Why is this being referred to Public Safety when the resident came in today was not referred to Public Safety. Council Adams - Asking for a signalized intersection is a larger matter than a sign.

Vote 8-0-0.

Councilor Adams asked Council Clerk Ms. Ward to find out how many accidents have occurred at this intersection and to send the letter to the Public Safety Committee.

Committee Reports

Library

Councilor Gilbert - As Mr. Murphy said library is on time/on budget. Started to move stuff back upstairs. Punch list of little things but for the most part things are done. Place looks great. Fundraiser 10/7/16 7pm to 10pm, \$30 per person. 10/8/16 open to the public, free. Work being done brings the library forward to a 21st century institution.

School

Councilor Clifton - Reminded the community of the 10/15/16 Community Forum on Charter Schools being held at the Turner Free Library at 12pm. Pros and cons of Question 2, entire community is invited. 11/8/16 is the vote.

Finance

Councilor Goldstein - Received a copy of the 6/30/16 Income and Expense

Statement; will do some summarizing and will send out to the council. Which committee has been working on the Redevelopment Authority? Councilor Adams - That is with the Economic Development Committee. Town Manager Murphy - We did have a first meeting with Economic Development Committee, lining up more people, taking longer than anticipated.

Town Accountant Position

Councilor Fernandes - Meeting later this week to go over the current status; offer has been made, committee will be meeting to work out some minor things.

Council Comments

Councilor Burgess - Read a statement that included thanking Randolph for the support shown at the election. Given an opportunity that many never get to experience. Numbers were not an embarrassment for supporters and town. Randolph is divided into 3 representative districts, many people don't realize. I encourage the council to consider actions that will break this trend at the next Redistricting and Census in 2020. Will continue to roll up my sleeves and do the work to help the town function.

Councilor Meoni - Bring to the community's attention a job fair this Wednesday, 9/14/16 from 3pm to 5pm at the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, MA, 40 Washington Street. Lot of employers to meet you.

Councilor Clifton - Blue Devils vs. Sharon on Friday night. Lost by a couple of touchdowns but want to congratulate our players, cheerleaders and parents and hope Randolph gets back in front and has a very successful season.

Councilor Huff-Larmond - Pop Warner opening day on Sunday, won two games, lost one game. Wonderful day.

Councilor Gilbert - Nice ceremony at the Elks. Councilor Fernandes and myself were there, somber occasion, nice group of people. Randolph Community Action Network - saw that on Facebook. Can someone clarify this? Councilor Huff-Larmond - Opportunity to talk to the public about our policies and how government is run in Randolph. Speakers include Councilor Fernandes, Councilor Clifton, myself, Town Manager and Town Clerk involved. Found many people do not understand our town government. Can we go? Open to the public.

Adjournment

Councilor Goldstein - Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Clifton.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Future Town Council Meetings

November 28, 2016

December 5, 2016

December 19, 2016