

Township of Randolph
Municipal Building
Randolph, NJ
July 18, 2024

A. OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Opening of the Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Randolph Township Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Carey. This meeting is held pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice of the meeting has been provided by posting written notice of the time, date, location, and, to the extent known, the agenda of the meeting in Randolph Township. This notice was posted on the Bulletin Board within Town Hall, it was filed with the Township Clerk, and it was provided to those persons or entities requesting notification. Notice was also provided to the Randolph Reporter and the Morris County Daily Record on November 30, 2023, by emailing them the annual resolution adopted by the Council on November 28, 2023. The annual resolution, which included this meeting date, was advertised in the Randolph Reporter, the official newspaper of the Township of Randolph, on December 7, 2023, and the Daily Record on December 4, 2023.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech – via Phone
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey

Also Present: Township Manager Poff, Assistant Township Manager Stuart Greer, and Attorney Keli Gallo of the Law Offices of Surenian, Edwards, Buzak & Nolan LLC

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Carey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. PROCLAMATION

1. Proclamation Honoring Beth Liquore and Kristen Markowitz

Mayor Carey read the proclamation honoring the efforts of Beth Liquore and Kristen Markowitz in saving the life of a minor into the record. Ms. Liquore and Ms. Markowitz thanked the council for the proclamation. They both expressed the importance of CPR training. The council commended both individuals for their life-saving actions.

Tony Meditz, a recreation program coach, emphasized that Ms. Liquore and Ms. Markowitz were heroes. He commended them for acting quickly without hesitation and saving a life. He commented that it was one of the most amazing things he had seen. He expressed his thanks to them.

Councilmember Nisivoccia made a motion to approve the proclamation. Councilman Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilmember Elbaum Councilman Forstenhausler Councilmember Nisivoccia Councilwoman Thornton Councilwoman Veech Deputy Mayor Hathaway Mayor Carey
NAYS:	None

C. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Josie Scanlan of 5 Knights Bridge Drive commented that the proclamation was wonderful. She stated that it was great that these individuals were recognized for their efforts. She asked if there was a way to make the location of AED devices more noticeable and ensure that coaches are apprised of their locations.

Vanessa Giordano of 19 Lawrence Road thanked the council and township staff for their assistance with the Fairy Trail. She shared that the Randolph Mommy & Me Group was hoping to have the program continue next year. She asked for consideration of a centralized view of all camp options offered by the township; she commented that this could mitigate any stress from sorting between private camp offerings.

Seeing and hearing no one further, the public session was closed.

D. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Poff reported on the following items:

Randolph 220th Anniversary – The Historical Society of Randolph is preparing for the 220th anniversary of Randolph's Incorporation next year. To start the 'Randolph Reminisces' Program at the Museum, the Society has confirmed and is hosting Mr. Tim Roth from the Canal Society of New Jersey in April 2025. Mr. Roth will be presenting a slideshow of the Morris Canal and including the importance of Randolph Township's connection.

RevolutionNJ – This partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association is preparing various programs and resources to support the 205th anniversary of the founding of the United States. It is suggested that the township consider passing a resolution to become a RevolutionNJ Community.

System-wide Cable Television Franchise Renewal – The township has received notice from the State Board of Public Utilities that it will begin its formal review for renewal of CSC TKR, LLC’s system-wide franchise. This franchise territory incorporates thirty-six (36) municipalities across six (6) counties. The Board’s Office of Cable Television & Telecommunications will conduct proceedings to review CSC TKR, LLC’s past performance under its system-wide franchise; and assess the future cable-related needs and interests of the municipalities covered by CSC TKR, LLC’s system-wide franchise.

Randolph Olympian – Randolph native, Amanda Golini, nee Magadan, will compete in the 2024 Olympics on the USA field hockey team. The Township Communications Director has prepared a video message from the Mayor along with an image that will be used to promote Ms. Golini’s and the USA field hockey team’s competition at the Summer Olympics.

Tax Assessments – The Tax Assessor has reported that his office is current with the added assessments. The current total of new ratables is approximately \$8.7 million. The Stack Storage buildings on Route 10 appear to be nearing completion. The buildings would increase the added assessment totals by \$5-6 million. The added assessment deadline is October 1, 2024. For comparison purposes, new ratables in 2023 totaled \$14 million. The Tax Assessor believes that the township will be on target to meet or exceed the 2023 totals.

High Water Bills – In response to a number of concerns raised by water customers with high water bills, a new communication entitled, “Common Causes of High-Water Bills” has been prepared and posted on the township’s website. This is an effort to educate water customers and provide them with helpful information about conserving water, things to check, and who to contact to have their water meter checked.

Parks Facility Master Plan – Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Director Russ Newman has indicated that the Parks Advisory Committee has unanimously recommended the hiring of a consultant to develop a town-wide Park Master Plan. The committee recommends forming a master plan steering committee comprised of council members, staff, advisory committee members, and other community representatives.

Water & Sewer Division – The Manager’s Office received a very nice compliment from a resident concerning employees in the Water & Sewer Division. The resident commented, “I was so impressed with them as they were patient and informative when I questioned them as to why they were setting up safety cones in front of our property. They also kept traffic safely moving while clearing out the debris. I know you would appreciate hearing that our Randolph employees have an excellent work ethic and are doing a very good job.”

E. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilwoman Thornton made a motion to approve the Regular Township Council meeting minutes of June 20, 2024. Councilman Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None

F. COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS

Item #3, R-166-24, Authorizing Support for 2024 Morris County Trail Construction Grant Program/Design Application: Rosenfarb-Guerin Farms Trail – Deputy Mayor Hathaway inquired about the amount of the grant. Manager Poff informed him that it was anticipated to be \$89,439; with matching funds.

Item #6, R-169-24, Authorizing 2023 LOSAP Benefit to be Paid in 2024 for Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Rescue Squad – Mayor Carey asked Manager Poff to provide some background information on this resolution. Manager Poff explained that this resolution is for volunteer emergency service personnel. In accordance with the township ordinance, benefits are accessible to volunteers based on a tiered series of standards.

1. R 164-24 Authorizing Refund of Escrow Funds to Jock Watkins, 9 Richter Street, Block 201, Lot 20 - \$571.00
2. R 165-24 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes for Tax Year 2011 to Saiber, LLC Trust Account on Behalf of Transistor Devices, LLC, 274 South Salem Street, Block 195, Lot 20 - \$7,451.54
3. R 166-24 Authorizing Support for 2024 Morris County Trail Construction Grant Program / Design Application: Rosenfarb-Guerin Farms Trail
4. R 167-24 Authorizing Approval of an Accident & Health Policy for Township Volunteers
5. R 168-24 Authorizing Release of Cash Road Opening Bonds to Various Individuals
6. R 169-24 Authorizing 2023 LOSAP Benefit to be Paid in 2024 for Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Rescue Squad
7. R 170-24 Authorizing Cancellation of Capital Improvement Authorizations - \$190,665.89
8. R 171-24 Authorizing Cancellation of Grant Funds - \$1,628.27
9. R 172-24 Authorizing the Updating of a Resolution Authorizing Township of Randolph Qualified Purchasing Agent to Procure Goods & Services Via New Jersey State Approved Cooperative Contracts, Including the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program

Councilmember Nisivoccia made a motion to approve the Combined Action Items. Deputy Mayor Hathaway seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilmember Elbaum
	Councilman Forstenhausler - Abstained to R-167-24 and R-169-24
	Councilmember Nisivoccia
	Councilwoman Thornton - Abstained to R-167-24 and R-169-24
	Councilwoman Veech
	Deputy Mayor Hathaway
	Mayor Carey
NAYS:	None

G. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Jim McConnell of 45 Carrell Road stated that the LOSAP benefit was very rewarding for emergency service volunteers. He stated that the benefit worked on a point system. He shared that he was concerned about the traffic in front of the High School during pick-up/drop-off times. Mayor Carey stated that the township would share the concern with the Board of Education during the next liaison meeting.

Seeing and hearing no one further, the public session was closed.

H. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Veech reported that the Freedom Festival was well-attended. Despite the bad weather Saturday morning, the Freedom Festival Parade was still able to be held. She thanked the Kiwanis and township staff for their efforts. She congratulated Howard Gordon on being honored as the Master of Ceremonies.

On Monday, July 15, she attended a Land-Use Workgroup meeting. The workgroup discussed materials relating to this meeting's Executive Session items. In the evening, she attended a Planning Board meeting, during which the board reviewed the Dunkin Donuts application for site renovation and a drive-thru installation. The application was carried over for discussion at the board's next meeting in August.

Councilman Forstenhausler noted that the rain stopped just 30 minutes before the Freedom Festival Parade kick-off. He referred to the Land-Use Workgroup meeting and commented that the council has always worked hard to encourage and help businesses make Randolph their home. He thanked the Township Manager and township staff for supporting and assisting these businesses. He stated that he received a great deal of positive feedback on the township's support during the many ribbon-cutting events he has attended. He explained that increases in ratables from local businesses result in additional tax revenue for the town and assisted the township with keeping municipal taxes as low as possible while providing for the continual maintenance of service levels.

Councilmember Elbaum echoed previous comments about the Freedom Festival and parade. She reported that the Recreation Advisory Committee met on Thursday, July 11. The committee discussed a proposed requirement for participation in a workshop that discusses ways to empower parents and coaches, in addition to covering zero-tolerance training. The workshop will be recorded and streamed. She acknowledged all the hard work of the parents volunteering in the recreation programs. She stated that the proposed training will enhance the experience for players and coaches.

The committee also discussed preparing volunteer application forms for their booth at the Country Fair which is scheduled to be held on Saturday, September 14. She reported that the lake water at Randolph Park was tested and came up as very clean; additionally, park staff installed over 180 tons of sand at the beach. She concluded her report by sharing that the Senior Olympics was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 18.

Councilmember Nisivoccia echoed previous council comments about the Freedom Festival and parade. He thanked the Kiwanis Club and the township staff for their efforts in organizing the event.

Councilwoman Thornton echoed previous comments about the Freedom Festival. On Monday, July 15, she attended the library's summer concert program with Mayor Carey and Councilmember Nisivoccia. She commended Beth Liquore and Kristen Markowitz for their bravery and swift action. She stated that their swift response was the epitome of safety and service. She commented that it takes special people to take control of an emergency and save a human life.

She reported that the Parks Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, July 16. A resident approached the committee with a concern about non-residents being in the Randolph Park parking lot on July 4. She explained that Randolph Park Beach is not open to non-residents on holidays and weekends and that signage of this policy is posted at the park entrance. She reported that there were no further issues, but there was anticipation of an increase in non-resident patrons due to Hopatcong State Park closing their beach from swimming due to harmful algae.

She reported that the summer camp programs and sports clinics were in full swing. Rosenfarb Park will be upgraded with grant monies to feature a full-sized basketball court and a playground. She shared a reminder from the Community Garden, advising that only garden bed owners are permitted to access the area and that the garden gates must remain closed.

She reported that the Trails Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, July 17. The committee discussed the Fairy Trail and concluded that it would open up to a few new houses over the summer. The trail is walked one to two times per week to check for maintenance. The Fairy Trail mailbox continues to receive correspondence. There will be two story time events on the trail; the first will be held on Friday, July 26, and the second will be held sometime in August.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway reported that the Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, July 11. During the meeting, it was reported that daily circulation averaged at 136,000; this figure is slightly up from the 133,000 reported at the same time last year. He shared that the library

kitchen renovation was underway and that the library has experienced strong attendance for each of the summer concert series shows. The library hosted a stuffed animal birthday sleepover event for local children. The event was well received. He reported that the board discussed including information about the Monday with the Mayor program on the library website. He shared information about the township's preparation for the SeeClickFix software integration. The board was interested in exploring how the software could be utilized.

He concluded his comments by sharing a recent interaction with one of the local fire companies. Volunteer firefighters responded to his home when a fire alarm went off – the alarm issue was resolved. He commented that he has seen the fire department work at multiple events, wet-downs, and organized functions, but seeing their response in that moment brought home the dedication and efforts they put forth in their duties.

Mayor Carey stated that the Freedom Festival was a great event; she noted that there was good attendance for the fireworks show. She commended Beth Liquore and Kristen Markowitz for their heroic act. She noted that the Township Communications Director has prepared a press release to commemorate Ms. Liquore and Ms. Markowitz's actions. She concluded her report by sharing that the Mondays with the Mayor events have been going very well; residents have expressed their appreciation of the program. She will be asking the Communications Director to inquire about publishing the program schedule on the library website.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Randolph, in the County of Morris, and in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the remaining portion of this meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - A. Attorney/Client Privilege: Affordable Housing
3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public at such time and under such circumstances as are prescribed by law.
4. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Council may or may not reconvene in public session for the purpose of taking formal action on matters discussed in closed session or on any matter as permitted by law.

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.
Councilmember Nisivoccia seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to close the Executive Session and reopen the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Councilmember Nisivoccia seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to direct Manager Poff to communicate with the Morris County Affordable Housing Corporation in regards to their request for the development of two affordable units on Franklin Road. Councilmember Nisivoccia seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None

M. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Councilman Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilman Forstenhausler

Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey

NAYS:

None