

December 12, 2024

Township of Randolph
Municipal Building
Randolph, NJ
December 12, 2024

A. OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Opening of the Regular Meeting

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 West Morris Reporter, previously known as 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: Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
ABSENT: Councilwoman Elbaum

Also Present: Township Manager Poff, Assistant Township Manager Evan Covello and Township Attorney Ed Buzak of the Law Offices of Surenian, Edwards, Buzak & Nolan LLC

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Carey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Jim McConnell of 45 Carrell Road asked about Combined Action Item #7, R 279-24 Authorizing Award of Contract for the Purchase of a Mobile Generator for the Rescue Squad Under State of New Jersey Contract #M0002 19-FLEET-00565. Clerk Luciani explained that it was determined that the Rescue Squad should have a mobile generator in light of the storms the community experienced.

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

C. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Poff reported on the following items:

Meeting with NJDOT – A meeting was held on Thursday, December 5, to discuss the Route 10, Hillside Avenue (CR 619) to Mt. Pleasant Tpke (CR 665) project, which is in the Final Design phase. The project scope of work includes rehabilitation of the Route 10 pavement, minor repairs on several bridges, and rockfall mitigation along a section of Route 10 westbound, east of Irish Spring Road. Property owners along Route 10 with driveways that need to be adjusted/modified due to the project work have been contacted by DOT and advised of the proposed changes to their driveways. Right-of-way acquisition activities are anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2025. Construction is anticipated to start in the late fall of 2028. He acknowledged Councilwoman Veech for being instrumental in contacting the NJDOT Chief of Staff down at the NJLM Conference and facilitating the meeting.

Facilities Workgroup - A meeting was held on Tuesday, December 10, to discuss the State's Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP), public-private partnerships, and an updated draft RFP for the Community Arts Center. The workgroup heard a presentation from Johnson Controls, which provides consulting and construction services for the ESIP. The township is evaluating having a vendor perform an energy audit as part of the ESIP program to identify building system upgrades, which could be funded through this program.

Recreation Program Payment Processing Procedures – Starting on January 1, 2025, there will be a small card processing fee for all credit card ACH transactions. These fees will appear as an additional charge on receipts/statements and will be included on all charges, whether completed online or in person. These fees will be as follows: Visa/Mastercard/Discover – 2.75% or \$1*, ACH/Debit Card – 1.00% or \$1* (*whichever is greater). Residents who prefer to avoid these fees can register in person at the Community Center on Calais Road and pay by cash or check.

Municipal Landmark Designation Request – The ELC advisory committee has sent a letter advocating for the designation by the Township Council of the Trowbridge – Brundage House as a Municipal Landmark. In accordance with local ordinance, the Township Council has 60 days to review the recommendation of the ELC.

Correspondence from the Office of Assemblywoman Dunn – The Assemblywoman has acknowledged receipt of a copy of Resolution 272-24, adopted by the Randolph Township Council on November 26, 2024, to support the amendment of the Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq. She thanked the township for keeping her abreast of the Township Council's efforts. She looks forward to continuing to work together on behalf of our mutual constituents.

GIS Mapping of Stormwater Infrastructure – The township has contracted with Stormwater Compliance Solutions to perform GIS mapping of township-owned stormwater infrastructure, including storm drains and pipes. Over the next several months, residents may notice vehicles and staff in various locations throughout the township equipped with GPS or survey tools. This mapping initiative is a requirement of the NJDEP under the Tier A Municipal Stormwater General Permit.

Free COVID-19 Test Kits – The Randolph Health Department is offering free COVID-19 test kits to residents to help ensure the health and safety of our community. Regular testing is a key part of protecting yourself and others, especially during the holiday season and colder months when gatherings are more frequent. Residents may stop by the Health Department to pick up a free test kit while supplies last.

Market Update – Phoenix Advisors, LLC, the township’s financial advisors, provides a market update several times a year. The consumer price index (CPI) rose to 2.6% in October from a year earlier, on target with economists’ expectations. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy items, was 3.3% for October. On November 7, the Federal Reserve voted to lower interest rates by a quarter percentage point. The benchmark federal funds rate has been reduced to 4.75%. The next Federal Reserve Meeting is December 18. An additional rate cut this year remains possible.

2025 Mayor Carey - He thanked Mayor Carey for her service. He complimented her on her outreach efforts to engage residents. He stated that she did an excellent job meeting our constituents and getting them answers to any questions they had.

Councilman Nisivoccia asked if the scope of work included addressing flooding at Route 10 and Sussex Turnpike. Manager Poff stated that two areas along the Route 10 corridor, near Sussex Turnpike and Jennifern Avenue, were discussed. The DOT expressed a willingness to address flooding at Jennifern Avenue in the design process. However, regarding Sussex Turnpike, there are different opinions about which entity generates the most stormwater. The township plans to engage with the County Engineering Department to gather information for the DOT. Manager Poff explained that jurisdiction in the area is very complex. He stated that the township would work with the County to develop a smaller plan to present to the DOT and reengage the DOT on this specific issue. Councilwoman Veech noted that while the DOT is willing to work with the township and the County, the agency did not want to take the lead. Mayor Carey stated that the discussion was productive overall and commended Councilwoman Veech for her efforts.

Councilwoman Veech asked if the official name of the Brundage House was the Trowbridge Brundage House. Mayor Carey inquired about what the designation would do in terms of altering or repairing the building. Manager Poff stated that an Environmental & Landmark Committee representative would present the information to the Council.

D. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Approval of Township Council Regular Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2024

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2024. Councilman Nisivoccia seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilman Forstenhausler
	Councilman Nisivoccia
	Councilwoman Thornton

1. R 273-24 Authorizing Refund of Recreation Department Program Fee to Nicole Gillo - \$335.00
2. R 274-24 Authorizing Tax Collector to Cancel 2023 Tax Delinquencies and Overpayments of Less Than \$10.00
3. R 275-24 Authorizing Tax Collector to Redeem and Refund Tax Sale Certificate #1847 for Block 135, Lot 18, 14 Willow Avenue, to Park Finance LLC - \$54,469.66
4. R 276-24 Authorizing Tax Collector to Redeem and Refund Tax Sale Certificate #20-06 for Block 117, Lot 4, 8 Lawrence Road, to Greymorr, LLC - \$193,518.61
5. R 277-24 Authorizing Award of Contract for Purchase of an ID Card Printer and Accessories Under ESCNJ Contract #ESCNJ/AEPA-22G Using ARPA Funds - Not to Exceed \$4,600.00
6. R 278-24 Authorizing Award of Contract for the Municipal Building Curtain Wall Replacement to Skopye LLC - Not to Exceed \$184,000.00

Dated: December 12, 2024

Deborah Bonanno
Chief Financial Officer

Trust Account:	#04-215-56-022-320	\$45,000
	#04-215-56-030-308	\$60,000
	#04-215-56-029-302	\$79,000

7. R 279-24 Authorizing Award of Contract for the Purchase of a Mobile Generator for the Rescue Squad Under State of New Jersey Contract #M0002 19-FLEET-00565 Using ARPA Funds - Not to Exceed \$46,000.00
8. R 280-24 Endorsing an Application for a Treatment Works Approval Modification for Canoe Brook Development
9. R 281-24 Authorizing Cancellation of Unexpended Appropriations
10. R 282-24 Authorizing Budget Transfers Between Appropriation Accounts
11. Raffle License - Tricky Tray, Greek Orthodox Church Community Center of Randolph, at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, May 9, 2025, 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
12. Raffle License - On-Premise 50/50, Greek Orthodox Church Community Center of Randolph, at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, May 9, 2025, 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to approve the Combined Action Items. Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

F. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

G. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Nisivoccia reported that he attended an Environmental & Landmark Advisory Committee meeting. The committee continued to discuss the implementation of Randolph's Bee City USA designation. The group also reviewed the options for signage and plantings at various entrance points into the township. They proposed a plan to identify native pollinator-friendly and tolerant plants that return annually to the area. He shared that the committee discussed the request to designate Trowbridge Brundage House as a municipal landmark and provided a brief history of the Trowbridge House.

He reported that he attended the Randolph Museum Open House, the Crimestoppers Annual Fundraiser, a meeting with VFW Post #7333—whose members conducted their annual flag collection at local cemeteries in the community—and a Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce

meeting. He congratulated Mayor Carey on her third term and thanked her for her dedication and commitment.

Councilwoman Veech reported attending a Planning Board meeting on Monday, December 2. The board approved the Grecco Site Plan for the property on Route 10. She shared that she also participated in an NJDOT meeting. On Thursday, December 5, she and Mayor Carey attended the County College of Morris (CCM) Culinary Arts Holiday Luncheon. On Friday, December 6, she and other council members visited the CCM campus for the grand opening of the new VFW Resource Center. She stated that the event was very touching and that five veterans were honored, three of whom are Randolph residents. She noted that local representatives and legislators were present at the event. On Saturday, December 7, she and Mayor Carey assisted with the Salvation Army Bell Collection in front of ACME. She attended the Randolph Museum Open House and a ribbon-cutting for Thrive Beauty Studio.

She participated in a Facilities Workgroup meeting on Tuesday, December 10. The workgroup examines ways to cut costs in various buildings that need repair and focuses on the RFP for the cultural arts center project. She concluded her report by sharing that she attended a Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon that raised \$1,000 for the Hope House.

Mayor Carey noted that there were many years where there was not much Randolph representation on the CCM Board of Trustees. She stated that currently, the CCM Board has two residents on the board, Justin Lash and Jim Loveys.

Councilwoman Thornton reported attending the Randolph Museum Open House and the Crimestoppers Fundraiser. She noted that she oversaw the Crimestoppers program for a few years. In 2024, 190 tips to date came into the program, and 291 follow-ups were conducted. She stated that the anonymous program was successful county-wide, helped the Randolph Police Department, and offered residents an additional avenue to voice concerns.

She reported that the Parks Advisory Committee discussed the completed winterization of various township parks and noted that playground safety checks were completed for all the township playgrounds. She concluded her report by thanking Mayor Carey for her transparent leadership and looking forward to continuing to serve with her in the upcoming year.

Councilwoman Veech stated that she was looking forward to serving another term with Mayor Carey. She commended her for doing a great job as mayor and complimented her efforts in communicating and reaching out to residents.

Councilman Forstenhausler reported that the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Tuesday, December 3. The committee discussed the recent fatalities in the township and the possibility of a traffic study for the Marks Corner area. He noted that the chairs in the breakroom, where the TAC meetings are held, require replacement. He reported that the committee was also seeking input into the Parks Master Plan and would like to have a liaison position with the planning committee. The committee also discussed commercial vehicles entering or leaving WAWA from Quaker Church Road.

He reported attending the Randolph Museum Open House, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and the Crimestoppers Fundraiser. He noted that the Facilities Workgroup is conducting an energy audit on areas where the township could save. He attended the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He concluded his report by commending Mayor Carey for her efforts during her third term as mayor. He stated that she did a fantastic job and her efforts were appreciated.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway reported that he and Councilman Forstenhausler attended an event at a temple in Morris Plains. The event featured a speaker who witnessed the October 7 attack in Israel. The speaker shared his story of survival from the terrorist attack and the story of his friend, who was taken hostage by Hamas. He stated that the event was very moving and that he and Councilman Forstenhausler were honored to represent the council and reaffirm their collective commitment to the Jewish community in the township.

He reported that the Planning Board reviewed the site plans for the Grecco property. He noted that he had heard from many subject matter experts and individuals who had assisted with reviewing the plans in years past. He stated that the project had its ups and downs, but the community has been interested in seeing it move forward. He commented that seeing it come to fruition and move through the Planning Board phase was significant.

He thanked Mayor Carey for her steady and practical leadership style. He referred to the many projects, grants, and mayoral wellness campaigns she accomplished throughout the year. He commended her leadership style and appreciated the opportunity to learn from her.

Mayor Carey thanked the council for their remarks. She stated that everyone on the council has contributed to the year; it was a team effort, and she greatly appreciated their contributions. She noted that the Mondays with the Mayor program continued to go well. She reported that the Economic Development Committee (EDC) met on Tuesday, December 3. Member Dana Tamminga was recognized for her five years of volunteering. The committee discussed the council's focus on highlighting local businesses in November and seeks to continue the campaign throughout the year. She shared that the Quarterly Newsletter was not being distributed to local businesses; this has been addressed, and now local businesses will receive the quarterly electronically via email. Councilwoman Veech asked if the businesses are signed up to receive other communications. Manager Poff stated that the EDC was updating email addresses on the Randolph Local website directory. Once that effort is complete, communications encouraging those businesses to opt into township communications will be distributed.

She reported attending the Project Healthy Bones holiday event at Fire Company #3. She explained that the project is a six-month program for seniors that assists with exercise and health education.

She reported attending a drone briefing in Ewing, NJ, by the New Jersey State Police. Colonel Patrick Callahan answered various questions but did not have any additional information. He stated that the state did not have jurisdiction as the drones were flying in federal airspace. Many attendees shared suggestions for the Governor's Office and expressed frustration. Colonel Callahan noted that there is no credible imminent threat, as it looks like the drones are just surveilling, but they do not know the source. The potential threat of the drones is the possibility

of crashing into residential areas or interfering with flights. She explained that the meeting was held to demonstrate transparency on their knowledge about the drone activity.

Councilwoman Thornton stated that the county was working on the drone activity daily. She shared that the county has asked people to get images of the drones. In addition to that, it would be helpful for people to include details of the time the footage is taken and the location so they can examine flight patterns. Mayor Carey shared that there was feedback about the FBI Tip Line not receiving people well—this was shared with the colonel as well.

Mayor Carey continued her report, sharing that many events were coming up, such as the Meet Santa and Tree Lighting events, three additional ribbon cuttings, the Menorah Lighting, and a VFW Post #7333 presentation. She noted that Robert Brembs, a longtime resident and VFW volunteer, passed away. She concluded her report by thanking the council for a wonderful year and stating that she appreciated all their support.

H. 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 Update
 - B. Personnel: Manager Performance Appraisal Process
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 will 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.

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilman Forstenhausler
 Councilman Nisivoccia
 Councilwoman Thornton

Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilwoman Elbaum

Councilwoman Thornton made a motion to close the Executive Session and reopen the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Councilman Forstenhausler seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

I. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Councilman Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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