

Township of Randolph
Municipal Building
Randolph, NJ
March 7, 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 Potter
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey

Also Present: Township Manager Poff and Township Attorney Edward Buzak of The Law Office of Surenian, Edwards, Buzak, & Nolan, LLC.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Carey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. PRESENTATION

- 1. Ms. Esther Churcaralao, Director of Veteran Services, to Present Governor's "We Value Our Veterans Community Award" to Township of Randolph**
- 2. Picatinny Arsenal Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Alexander Burgos and Command Sgt. Major Franks**

Ms. Esther Churcaralao, Director of Veteran Services, presented the Governor's "We Value Our Veterans Community Award" to the Township of Randolph. Members of VFW Post 7333, Angel Soto, Rich Reck, and Jerry Stone, accepted the award; they thanked former Mayor Lou Nisivoccia and the rest of the council for their support. Picatinny Arsenal Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Alexander Burgos expressed the importance of giving back to veterans. He stated that it was great that the community received this award. He felt that New Jersey truly displayed its patriotism and support for veterans.

Councilmember Nisivoccia stated that the township was fortunate to have an active VFW Post. Mayor Carey thanked the veterans and post members for all of their efforts. She commended the VFW's continual support of community events and commemorative ceremonies. She stated that the VFW was an integral part of the community.

C. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Joseph Amaral of 14 Holly Drive shared his appreciation for the trails in the community. He suggested that a trails brochure similar to ones at national parks be created for the various areas.

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

D. MANAGER'S REPORT

Intersection improvement – A preconstruction meeting was held with Morris County and the contractor J.C. Contracting on Monday, March 4 to discuss intersection improvements at Center Grove Road and Quaker Church Road. The project involves the replacement of the traffic signal at the intersection including pedestrian improvements. Work includes sidewalk, curbing, paving and a signal interconnect from the Quaker Church signal to the Route 10 intersection.

Construction activity is expected to last approximately six weeks beginning at the end of March/beginning of April.

Spring Branch Collection – The annual spring branch collection for 2024 starts the week of April 15. All brush needs to be placed curbside by this date as it will be a ONE TIME ONLY pick up. This collection usually takes four weeks to complete. Branch collection will be limited to ONE (1) LOAD per property, approximately 4 cubic yards. Loads larger than this can be removed through the special branch collection policy by contacting the Engineering Office at 973 989-7066. There is a \$150 fee for this additional service.

7 Phyllis Place – Manager Poff received a call from Howard Messer representing the Mt. Freedom Jewish Center regarding a piece of property the synagogue owns on Phyllis Place. Mr. Messer inquired about the township possibly acquiring the property. The issue was raised by Mr. Messer and considered by the Township Council in 2011; at the time, the council had no interest in purchasing the property. Additional information will be provided to the council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Veterans Community Park – The initial damage to the story walk sign at Veteran Community Park was caused by plow damage clearing the trail and reported on Tuesday, February 27.

Additionally, three signs were vandalized, including the sign that was broken, and reported to the Police Department. The damaged sign has been replaced and the vandalism has been cleaned by park staff.

Market update – Phoenix Advisors, LLC, the township’s financial advisors, provides a market update several times a year. Attached is the most recent update. Of particular note, the 10-year Municipal "AAA" Benchmark index: fluctuated throughout February but remains unchanged from the end of January, and the next Federal Reserve Meeting is March 20. Federal Reserve Officials are not likely to cut rates at its March meeting. Investors increasingly see the central bank waiting until June to make cuts.

Councilmember Nisivoccia asked if the intersection improvements at Center Grove Road and Quaker Church Road were a township-issued project or if Morris County identified the shortcomings. Manager Poff explained that the intersection improvements is a county project that has been in development for a number of years; the county has finally issued the project contract. Councilmember Nisivoccia asked if the intersection required minor improvements. Manager Poff explained that the project included the completion of pedestrian facilities, in addition to upgrades for traffic signals to create better coordination at the intersection.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway asked if the Center Grove Road and Quaker Church Road intersection had any correlation to the intersection improvements on Millbrook Avenue. Manager Poff stated that the Millbrook Avenue and Quaker Church Road intersection improvements were substantially complete; there may be additional enhancements in the future.

E. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to approve the Budget Council Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2024. Councilmember Potter seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Councilmember Nisivoccia made a motion to approve the Budget Council Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2024. Deputy Hathaway seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilmember Potter
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Veech

Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Councilman Forstenhausler

F. COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS

1. R-58-24 Authorizing Substitution from Appraisal Consultants Corp. to Otteau Group, Inc. for Professional Services Agreement for Tax Appeals Appraiser Services for 2024

CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Dated: March 7, 2024

As required by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57, N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.3-5.5, and any other applicable requirement, I, Deborah Bonanno, Director of Finance for the Township of Randolph, have ascertained that funds will be available, subject to annual appropriation and adoption in the 2024 municipal budget, to award a professional service contract to Otteau Group, Inc. for providing services as Tax Appeal Appraiser as detailed in the proposal provided to the Township.

Deborah Bonanno
Chief Financial Officer
Budget Account: 01-201-20-150-301 2024 (not to exceed \$30,000)

2. R-59-24 Refund Recreation Department Program Fees to Various Individuals
3. R-60-24 Authorizing Refund of Permit Application Fee for Wood Stove to The Black River Barn - \$182.40
4. R-61-24 Authorizing Refund of Tax Sale Certificate #2023-021 to Christiana T C/F CEI/Firsttrust for 236 Millbrook Avenue - \$3,365.02
5. R-62-24 Authorizing Refund for Water Connection Fees and Road Opening Fees for Peter E. Tsetsekas, 241 Center Grove Road - \$3,085.00
6. R 63-24 Authorizing Rejection of Sole Bid for Supplying Plumbing & Waterworks Specialties Project
7. Raffle License - On-Premise 50/50, Greek Orthodox Church Community Center of Randolph, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, May 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
8. Raffle License - On-Premise Tricky Tray, Greek Orthodox Church Community Center of Randolph, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, May 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Councilmember Potter made a motion to approve the combined action agenda. Councilman Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum

Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilmember Potter
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey

NAYS: None

G. UPCOMING EVENTS

Councilmember Elbaum inquired about the Community-Wide Garage Sale date. The event will be held on Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21.

1. Annual Recreation Awards Ceremony, Sunday, March 10, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at the Randolph Community Center
2. Israel Moves Me, Sunday, March 10, 2024, Gottsman RTW Academy, 146 Dover-Chester Road, Randolph, 12:00 p.m. - 12:45p.m. Cello Concert, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Activities
3. Hope One Prescription Drop Box Program, Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at the Randolph Library, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
4. Randolph Business After Hours, March 13, 2024, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the West Morris YMCA, 14 Dover Chester Road, Randolph
5. COUNCIL ONLY - NJEDC Luncheon, March 21, 2024, 11:45 a.m. at The Corner Bistro, 477 Route 10, Randolph
6. Interfaith Food Pantry Annual Spring Gala, April 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. at Birchwood Manor, 111 North Jefferson Road, Whippany
7. COUNCIL ONLY - Brundage Park 45th Anniversary Celebration, Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the Brundage Park Playhouse
8. Randolph Food Truck & Music Festival to Benefit the Randolph Rescue Squad, Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the County College of Morris, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

H. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

1. **04-24 – Ordinance 04-24 to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish CAP Bank in the Amount of \$293,032.12**

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, Ordinance 04-24 to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish CAP Bank in the Amount of \$293,032.12, be read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of the said Ordinance is to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank for Calendar Year 2024. The CAP Bank allows flexibility to provide for appropriations in case of emergencies, unforeseen

expenses, or increased costs beyond the control of the Township. By having a cap bank, the township is able to accommodate all of these increases without having to cut services in other areas. The cap bank is not intended to replace good fiscal practice or planning, but allows for increases when necessary

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, Ordinance entitled, Ordinance 04-24 to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish CAP Bank in the Amount of \$293,032.12, be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Final Passage of said Ordinance be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilmember Forstenhausler made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Elbaum reported that the Recreation Volunteer Awards will be held on Sunday, March 10, at the Community Center. She shared that the Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for Friday, March 22, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Veterans Community Park. She shared that pre-registration for the Fairy House Trail would open on Saturday, June 1, with the Randolph Mommy and Me.

Councilman Forstenhausler reported that he attended a Facilities Workgroup meeting.

Councilmember Nisivoccia reported that he participated in a NJ 211 Conference Call.

Councilwoman Veech reported that the Planning Board had considered a resolution for Ludiro and the two fast-food restaurants coming to the K-Mart Plaza. The resolutions were approved with some amendments and conditions.

She reported that the Facilities Workgroup met to discuss the VFW building, Artworks Studio buildings, and the Brundage Playhouse. She shared that they are looking to advance a preliminary evaluation of the buildings, and sketching out concepts for structures adjacent to town hall. The group will be meeting again on Wednesday, March 20, to review preliminary evaluations of what can be done.

Councilman Forstenhausler added that the preliminary municipal budget allows the township to address additional repairs to the VFW building. He added that the workgroup was considering if the township should continue to put money into the old building, or if the funds would be better utilized for a study and site plan.

Councilmember Elbaum stated that the workgroup was exploring fiscally responsible options and considering what would make the most sense when it comes to renovation or demolition.

Councilmember Potter reported that the Trails Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, February 21. She shared that the Randolph Mommy and Me registration for the Fairy House Trail would be opening shortly. The committee was developing an Earth Day Trail Walk that will be approximately 2.5 miles long. She shared that Phil Sheehy attended an Environmental Landmarks Committee meeting to discuss collaborating on the Earth Day Trail initiative. She shared that the committee reached out to Mayor Carey to coordinate a Mayor Trail Walk event. Additionally, the Trails Committee will be working with the Township Communications Director to improve its social media outreach.

She reported that the Diversity Workgroup met on Wednesday, February 28. The workgroup is working on outreach for a coffee with the council type of event. She concluded her report by sharing that the Social Services Workgroup met on Tuesday, March 5; the committee discussed developing a plan to aid residents with connecting to county and state social services.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway reported that he attended the Municipal Alliance Committee meeting in place of Councilmember Nisivoccia. He shared that the committee discussed the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Expo scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at the Community Center. There are currently 20 vendors slated to participate in the event; he encouraged local business owners and community organizations to participate.

Mayor Carey attended the Tuesday, March 5 Economic Development Committee meeting. During the meeting, the committee discussed the Shop Local initiative, the Country Fair, and defining the criteria for the Business Achievement Award. She shared that ribbon-cutting events are expected to occur soon for various businesses coming into the township.

She concluded her report by sharing that members of the council visited local elementary schools to celebrate Read Across America week and read books to elementary students.

Councilman Forstenhausler shared that the council and Township Manager participated in a MEL JIF Training session. He added that the township saved \$2,000 on its insurance premium through the JIF.

Councilwoman Veech asked if the EDC reached out to new businesses to inform them of its services. Mayor Carey confirmed that the EDC has sent out letters and visited new businesses.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held for this meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Potter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Councilmember Potter made a motion to reconsider the motion to adjourn. Councilman Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to rescind and make a motion not to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Councilmember Potter seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Councilwoman Elbaum made a motion to appoint Laura Pizzano as Alternate #2 on the Board of Health. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Mayor Carey made a motion to appoint Hamza Brelvi as Student Member on the Economic Development Committee. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Councilmember Potter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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