

Township of Randolph  
Municipal Building  
Randolph, NJ  
March 21, 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 Veech  
Deputy Mayor Hathaway  
Mayor Carey

ABSENT: Councilmember Potter

**Also Present:** Township Manager Poff, Assistant Manager Stuart Greer, 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/PROCLAMATION**

### **1. Proclamation Honoring John Pedrick for 50 Years of Service in Randolph Township Fire Department**

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

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

## **C. APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. Appointment of Valarie Lissaur as Student Member of Economic Development Committee**

Mayor Carey made a motion to appoint Valarie Lissaur as a 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 Nisivoccia  
Councilwoman Veech  
Deputy Mayor Hathaway  
Mayor Carey  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Councilmember Potter

## **D. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

## **E. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Police Agency Re-Accreditation – The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Accreditation Program Commissioners has recognized the Randolph Township Police Department for achieving Police Agency Re-Accreditation through the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained assessors verifies that applicable standards have been successfully implemented. In addition, the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund recognizes the value that formal police accreditation programs have in reducing claims against members.

Gas Main Installation Route 10 – The township has been advised that the NJDOT has issued a utility opening permit to ULS for the installation of a gas main on behalf of Elizabethtown Gas. Phase One is scheduled to begin Friday, March 22 through Monday, March 25 from 10:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The anticipated traffic impact will be a right lane closure on Route 10 westbound, with no changes to traffic patterns as the left lane will remain open.

Toll Brothers, Canoe Brook Utility Work – Both projects must do utility work for the installation of water and sewer utilities. Given the nature of the work being performed NJDOT will only issue permits for night work, which is expected to start within the next week and last up to three weeks. The township has requested that the contractors provide notice to impacted property owners to advise them of the dates, times, and a point of contact during construction.

2021 Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant – Randolph Township has received notification that its most recent recycling tonnage report was approved and has resulted in the township being awarded \$69,288 for its recycling efforts. The grant amount is commensurate with the recycling rate in a given community. As in the past, Randolph ranks amongst the leaders in Morris County, primarily due to residents being great recyclers. Randolph has once again, received the second-highest reward behind Parsippany, which has twice the population and a much larger commercial tax base.

## **F. 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCTION & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Manager Poff presented a summary of the 2024 Municipal Budget:

He explained that the 2024 Municipal Budget focused on sustaining programs/services, satisfying departmental operational objectives, and balancing the Township Council's goals of improving financial accountability, meeting residential service demands, and providing for infrastructure needs.

The proposed 2024 budget calls for appropriations of \$36,610,146. This represents a 3.82% increase or \$1,346,201 from the adopted 2023 budget. Significant dollar increases were seen in the following budget items: insurance (liability, workers' compensation, and health), recycling and solid waste collection, additional recreation programming, and capital improvements.

He reviewed the annual process for the budget's development, introduction, and adoption and provided an overview of the following budget elements:

- Financial Summary
- 2024 Estimated Property Tax Rates - For every property tax dollar billed and collected, the township retains only \$0.18 to fund municipal services.
- Revenues - Fund Balance, Miscellaneous Revenues, State Aid, Library Taxes, Grants, Interlocal Agreements, Receipts from Delinquent Taxes, and Tax Levy
- Fund Balance – At the end of December 2023, the Fund Balance totaled \$9.3 million; the Fund Balance Anticipated in the 2024 municipal budget is \$6.2 million.
- Municipal Service Appropriations/Total Appropriations

- General Appropriations for:
  - Insurance – The township continues to benefit from its participation in the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund and the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund. Both funds have rate increases that require funding.
  - Recycling – The township will once again realize a “negative” rebate for the disposal of paper and plastic this year.
  - Recreation Services O/E – Other expenses are increased to cover youth program, day camp, and teen camp.
  - Capital Improvements – Given the continued increase of cost of materials and goods, it is recommended additional funds be placed in the capital improvement fund.
- Key Initiatives:
  - Township Engineer – The restoration of the position of a full-time Township Engineer. This initiative will allow the township to address a number of project and facility improvements, which have been deferred.
  - Customer Relationship Management (CRM) – The CRM solution empowers residents to report issues, identify repair needs, share feedback, and ask questions of the local government. The system will allow for more efficient and transparent workflows, fostering accountability and trust and the utilization of a more data-driven budget process.
  - Community Health Needs Assessment & Improvement Plan – This work will identify the most pressing health issues and facilitate the development of collaborative action plans to address them.
  - Cybersecurity – The information technology budget includes expenses for the deployment of cybersecurity services. The township has implemented and continues to comply with the Joint Insurance Fund’s cybersecurity standards.
- Water and Sewer Department – The 2024 budget allocates \$3,771,692 for the operation of the public water system, and \$4,605,045 for the operation of the public sewer system.
- Capital Improvement Program – The funding of the following capital projects and acquisitions through a combination of current funds and debt financing:
  - Road Repaving Program – \$1,100,000
  - Roof Replacement – Town Hall – \$650,000
  - Engine Replacement (E-41) – Partial - \$400,000
  - Replace Dump Truck #912 – \$280,000
  - Replace Dump Truck #913 – \$280,000
  - Dogwood Pump Station Upgrade – \$225,000
  - Den Brook Pump Station Upgrades – \$210,000
  - West Hanover Sidewalk – \$140,000
  - Facility Premise Wiring – \$130,000

He explained that the 2024 budget used a greater amount of fund balance to limit the increase in the municipal portion of property taxes. He concluded the summary by stating that the budget maintained and enhanced municipal service levels. He thanked Chief Financial Officer Debbie

Bonanno for her assistance in the preparing the budget and thanked the council for their guidance and attention throughout the process.

Manager Poff read the Resolution Upon Adoption for Year 2024 into the record for the council's consideration:

Be it resolved by the councilmembers of the Township of Randolph, County of Morris, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$ 21,001,606.00 for municipal purposes, and
- (b) \$ 0.00 (Item 3 below) for school purposes in Type I School Districts only (N.J.S. 18A:9-2) to be raised by taxation and,
- (c) \$ 0.00 (Item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in Type II School Districts only (N.J.S. 18A:9-3) and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.
- (d) \$ 924,584.00 (Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy
- (e) \$ 0.00 (Sheet 44) Arts and Culture Trust Fund Levy
- (f) \$ 1,747,938.00 (Item 5 below) Minimum Library Levy

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to introduce the 2024 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program. Councilmember Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

|         |                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AYES:   | Councilmember Elbaum<br>Councilman Forstenhausler<br>Councilmember Nisivoccia<br>Councilwoman Veech<br>Deputy Mayor Hathaway<br>Mayor Carey |
| NAYS:   | None                                                                                                                                        |
| ABSENT: | Councilmember Potter                                                                                                                        |

#### **G. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to approve the Budget Council Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2024. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

|       |                                                                                                                              |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AYES: | Councilmember Elbaum<br>Councilman Forstenhausler<br>Councilmember Nisivoccia<br>Councilwoman Veech<br>Deputy Mayor Hathaway |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Mayor Carey  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Councilmember Potter

## H. COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS

Item #9, R-72-24 - Authorizing Tax Appeal Settlement for Trebour Property, Block 42, Lot 114.01, 906 Route 10 - \$3,700,000 – Councilwoman Veech inquired about the tax settlement. Manager Poff explained that Township Tax Assessor Glen Sherman has been working on the last of the largest legacy tax appeals. Mr. Sherman and the township's counsel reached a settlement with the prior owner of the property. He provided information about the property lot features. He explained that appeals were also filed under the ownership of Morris County Realty LLC for tax years 2012-2022; this resolution is for the tax year appeals from 2009-2011. He summarized the specifics of the settlement. He stated that Mr. Sherman and the tax counsel agreed that the proposed settlement was favorable to the township and concluded that the proposed settlement eliminated the inherent risk and cost of going to trial.

1. R 64-24 Authorizing Refund of Recreation Department Program Fees to Various Individuals
2. R 65-24 Authorizing Refund of Escrow Funds to Edward Lewthwaite for 152 Munson Street, Block 131, Lot 5 - \$281.97
3. R 66-24 Authorizing Refund of Tax Sale Certificate #2023-014 to Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank for Block 119, Lot 14.09, 94A Everdale Road - \$1,616.13
4. R 67-24 Authorizing Refund for Overpayment of Tax Payment for Block 201, Lot 64, Qual. T01, 49 Shongum Road - \$1,369.41
5. R 68-24 Authorizing Purchase of Upgraded Body Worn Cameras and Services

### CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Dated: March 21, 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 are available to award a contract to Safe Fleet for the acquisition of body worn cameras and systems in 2024 and funds availability for ongoing systems and support subscriptions will be subject to annual appropriation and adoption in the 2025 through 2028 municipal budgets.

Deborah Bonanno  
Chief Financial Officer

Budget Account: 04-215-55-990-314 (not to exceed \$18,424.21)  
04-215-55-998-311 (not to exceed \$20,000.00)  
04-215-56-002-310 (not to exceed \$19,842.79)  
01-201-25-240-322 2025-2028 (not to exceed \$156,528)

6. R 69-24 Authorizing Self-Examination of 2024 Budget
7. R 70-24 Authorizing Certification of Compliance With United States Equal Employment Opportunity Hiring Practices
8. R 71-24 Authorizing Appropriation Reserve Transfers - \$101,000
9. R 72-24 Authorizing Tax Appeal Settlement for Trebour Property, Block 42, Lot 114.01, 906 Route 10 - \$3,700,000
10. R 73-24 Authorizing Award of a Contract for Emergency Medical Services and Medical Transportation Services to Atlantic Ambulance Corp. for the Markup/Premium of \$0.00 Added to Medicare/Medicaid Base Rate for Uninsured Patients
11. R 74-24 Authorizing Settlement With Randolph Township Employees Association (RTEA) for Term January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026
12. R 75-24 Authorizing Settlement With Randolph Township Municipal Supervisory Employees Association (RTMSEA) for Term January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to approve the combined action agenda. Deputy Mayor Hathaway seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

|         |                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AYES:   | Councilmember Elbaum<br>Councilman Forstenhausler<br>Councilmember Nisivoccia<br>Councilwoman Veech<br>Deputy Mayor Hathaway<br>Mayor Carey |
| NAYS:   | None                                                                                                                                        |
| ABSENT: | Councilmember Potter                                                                                                                        |

## **I. UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. COUNCIL ONLY - Mt. Freedom Jewish Center's Centennial Anniversary Gala, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., The Crystal Plaza, 305 W. Northfield Road, Livingston, NJ
2. COUNCIL ONLY - "Morristown Municipal Airport: Helping Morris County Soar," Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 5:15 p.m. at Tavern 73, 73 US Highway 46, Pine Brook, NJ
3. COUNCIL ONLY - Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce Speed Networking Event, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Randolph Diner, 517 Route 10 East, Randolph
4. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Friday, April 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m. at SIP Abacus & Brain Gym, 486 Route 10, Randolph
5. 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
6. Little League Opening Day Parade, Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. at Freedom Park

7. Community Garage Sale, April 20 - 21, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine
8. COUNCIL ONLY - Brundage Park 45th Anniversary Celebration, Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the Brundage Park Playhouse
9. 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.
10. Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Expo, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Randolph Township Community Center
11. Ironia Fire Company Pancake Breakfast hosted by Randolph Township Fire Department 4th Battalion, Sunday, May 5, 2024, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

## **J. ORDINANCES: INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Ordinance 05-24 Appropriating \$497,500 From Recreation/Open Space Trust Fund and \$95,000 From General Capital (Open Space) Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2024 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Totaling \$592,500**

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of the said Ordinance is to fund various 2024 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements in the amount not to exceed \$592,500.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$497,500 from the Recreation/Open Space Trust Fund and \$95,000 from General Capital (Open Space) Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2024 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Totaling \$592,500” be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 18th, of April, 2024 at 6 o’clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilmember Forstenhausler made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Councilmember Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

|         |                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AYES:   | Councilmember Elbaum<br>Councilman Forstenhausler<br>Councilmember Nisivoccia<br>Councilwoman Veech<br>Deputy Mayor Hathaway<br>Mayor Carey |
| NAYS:   | None                                                                                                                                        |
| ABSENT: | Councilmember Potter                                                                                                                        |

**2. Ordinance #06-24 Appropriating \$582,000 From Capital Improvement Fund for Various Water/Sewer Capital Improvements Totaling \$582,000**

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of the said Ordinance is to fund various 2024 Water/Sewer Capital Improvements in the amount not to exceed \$582,000.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$582,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Various Water/Sewer Capital Improvements” be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 18th, of April, 2024 at 6 o’clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilmember Forstenhausler made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Councilmember Elbaum seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum  
Councilman Forstenhausler  
Councilmember Nisivoccia  
Councilwoman Veech  
Deputy Mayor Hathaway  
Mayor Carey

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Potter

**3. Ordinance 07-24 Appropriating \$2,061,750 From Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2024 Capital Improvements**

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of the said Ordinance is to fund various 2024 Capital Improvements for the Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Information Technology, Engineering, and Recycling/Parks Equipment & Facilities in the amount not to exceed \$2,061,750.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, “Capital Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$2,061,750 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2024 Capital Improvements” be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 18th, of April, 2024 at 6 o’clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

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

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

**4. Ordinance 08-24 Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$2,319,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,929,750 Bonds or Notes for Various Improvements or Purposes Authorized to be Undertaken**

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of the said Ordinance is for the purchase of new and additional equipment for use by the Department of Public Works, including two (2) dump trucks; and to finance improvements of municipally-owned properties and facilities in and by the Township, including Town Hall roof renovations and window installations, flooring upgrades for the Community Center, the Salt Shed roof renovation, upgrades to the VFW building, various park bathroom renovations; improvements of roads and sidewalks in and by the Township, and the improvement of South Road.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, “Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$2,319,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,929,750 Bonds or Notes of the Township, for Various Improvements or Purposes Authorized to be Undertaken by the Township of Randolph, In the County of Morris, New Jersey” be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 18th, of April, 2024 at 6 o’clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilmember Nisivoccia made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Deputy Mayor Hathaway seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum  
Councilman Forstenhausler

Councilmember Nisivoccia  
Councilwoman Veech  
Deputy Mayor Hathaway  
Mayor Carey  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Councilmember Potter

#### **K. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

#### **L. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Veech reported that she attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities Taxation and Finance Committee meeting. She informed the council that the committee reviewed a list of proposed bills to determine whether to hold, support, or oppose them. She has asked the committee secretary for the meeting notes to share with the council. She stated that she was disappointed with the disregard for the league's opinion on the affordable housing legislation.

She attended the Recreation Volunteer Award Ceremony on Sunday, March 10. She reported that the first Community Garden meeting for the season would be held on Thursday, June 6. There are 14 new gardeners joining the program. She informed the council that the Community Garden changed its policy from mandatory meetings, to instead require an orientation meeting with the garden coordinator to review policies before new members receive access to their garden beds.

She and other members of the council participated in the HOPE ONE Mobile Recovery event on Wednesday, March 13 at the Randolph Library. The HOPE ONE recovery vehicle was parked at the library; during the event, Narcan kits were distributed and information about mental health services was shared.

She attended a breakfast hosted by VFW Post #7333. During the event, veterans shared stories about their experiences during their service. She shared that she attended the Brundage Playhouse Godspell production; the play was well attended.

She reported that the Facilities Workgroup met on Wednesday, March 20, to discuss the concept of constructing a new cultural arts center next to the municipal building. Various township professionals were present at the meeting, including Township Manager Poff, Assistant Manager Greer, Township Clerk Luciani, Planning and Zoning Director Darren Carney, and Parks and Recreation Director Russ Newman. She explained that the Artworks Studio, Brundage Park Playhouse, and the VFW Building were in much need of repair and investment. The workgroup determined that instead of pouring money into the existing facilities; which are each over 45 years old, it would be more prudent to evaluate the construction of a new facility to house those programs and functions. She stated that the workgroup was seeking the council's consensus for

Manager Poff to begin the process of gathering information and working with the township professionals to develop a plan.

Councilman Forstenhausler stated that the workgroup was seeking the council's consensus on the concept. He commented that annually a significant amount of money is allocated for the old facilities, and it may make more long-term sense to develop a brand-new facility.

Councilmember Elbaum stated that rather than putting band-aids on the old buildings, it might make more sense to start fresh with a new facility. She stated that the workgroup would like everyone's blessing to get to the next step conceptually.

Councilmember Nisivoccia supported the concept of the cultural arts center. He stated that he would like to see a plan. Deputy Mayor Hathaway supported the idea and thought it was befitting of Randolph's track record of providing top-notch services and facilities for the community. Mayor Carey agreed that there was a need for the solution and that the township should not continue to throw money at facilities that require continual repair. She informed Manager Poff that there was a consensus to start pulling information together for the council's consideration.

Manager Poff stated that the township professionals provided the workgroup with preliminary information to inform the conversation. He stated that with the council's consensus, the project could be examined in greater detail. He looked forward to working with the council and working to provide a first-class facility for the program and groups that have had great success in the township.

Councilmember Nisivoccia reported that he attended a Trails Advisory Committee in place of Councilmember Potter. He shared that the Fairy House Trail was scheduled to open on Saturday, June 1 at noon. He stated that the committee was working with the Environmental Landmark Advisory Committee to develop an Earth Day program. The program will be held on Saturday, April 20 at 11:00 a.m. and will consist of a two-hour long hike.

Councilmember Elbaum reported that the Recreation Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 14. She shared that the spring recreation program directors presented program information to the committee. She commended the volunteers for their dedication. She reported that the committee discussed some park drainage issues at Freedom Park, mandatory training for coaches, methods of disengaging bad sportsmanship, and the development of a Coach ID program.

She attended a Board of Health meeting on Monday, March 11. The board discussed the scheduling of the fall flu vaccine clinic, the skin cancer screening scheduled for Thursday, April 18, and the DCA grant award of \$5,500 for the lead inspection program. Additionally, the board discussed increasing the veterinarian reimbursement fees for the rabies voucher program to incentivize them.

She shared that between the period of February 2023 and February 2024, the issuing of marriage licenses had increased by 250%, and the adoption rate for the animal shelter from that period had gone up by 66.7%.

She attended the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce Speed Networking event on Thursday, March 21. During the event, a representative of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority discussed funding grants available to local businesses. She would be encouraging the EDC to share the information with the business community.

Councilman Forstenhausler shared that he had attended many of the previously mentioned events. He stated that it was nice to see the Liberty Tree slices hanging in the municipal building, museum, and library.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway reported that he attended the Israel Moves Me event hosted by the Gottesman RTW Academy. He explained that the event was a fundraiser to support the Jewish Federation of Greater Metro West's Israel Emergency Fund. He shared that many residents expressed that they were grateful for the council's representation at the event.

He attended a Library Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, March 14. He shared that the library's 60th Anniversary Celebration event would be held on Saturday, May 4; the event coincides with the Municipal Alliance Committee's Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Expo event at the Community Center. He shared that the board voted to install railings on the library gazebo. He concluded his report by informing the council that 77 people had completed the library's "I Love My Library Card" activity.

Mayor Carey asked Manager Poff if the changed weekday for the Recreation Award Ceremony was better received. Manager Poff stated that he would inquire about the consensus on the date.

Mayor Carey reported that she presented Sunrise Senior Living resident Josephine Malise with a centenarian certificate to celebrate her 106th birthday. She stated that she presented two proclamations for Gracie Schrader and Alexa Helmke in recognition of their community projects for recycling, and student mental health. Additionally, she shared that she attended the Brundage Playhouse production of Godspell.

She concluded her report by sharing that was invited to speak on a mayors' panel at a Roxbury Chamber of Commerce event. She joined with mayors from Roxbury, Mount Arlington, and Netcong to discuss methods of supporting local businesses.

Attorney Buzak informed the council that Senator Bucco has been helpful and active in trying to move the affordable housing bill in the right direction or stop it completely. He wanted the council to be aware of his efforts. There was a brief discussion about towns possibly fighting or appealing the legislation and possible challenges.

## **M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held for this meeting.

## **N. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Nisivoccia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Councilman Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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