

Township of Randolph
Municipal Building
Randolph, NJ
April 4, 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
Councilmember Potter
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey

Also Present: Township Manager Poff, Assistant Township Manager 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. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

C. MANAGER'S REPORT

Local Safety Action Plan – The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) in coordination with Morris County, is developing a Local Safety Action Plan to improve safety for all road users, in keeping with the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) National Road Safety Strategy and Safe System Approach. create a framework for focusing safety activities towards addressing the most pressing needs and matching safety problems with effective solutions. They are an important call to action to reduce and eventually eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes on all roadways. The workgroup which will include township professionals, and Morris County and NJTPA representatives will meet on Wednesday, April 10 to discuss the prioritization of improvements, implementation and monitoring efforts, and the identification of appropriate community strategies.

Affordable Housing Summary – Working in conjunction with the Mayor and Communications Director, a press release was published summarizing the approaching 4th round of affordable housing obligations in 2025. The outcome of the fourth-round numbers is expected to have a major impact on the planning, zoning, environmental, and budgetary decisions of municipalities for years to come. The press release provides a breakdown of the complex issues and the two affordable housing projects already in place in the township.

Zoning Officer Sign Ordinance – The Communications Director is working with the Township Zoning Officer to develop communications about the appropriate placement of signage around the township. The Zoning Officer has been regularly patrolling and removing signs in violation of local ordinances; he has done his best to advise the sign owners about what is permitted.

Municipal JIF Bronze Safety Award – The Municipal Joint Insurance Fund has awarded Randolph Township with the Bronze Safety Award. The small amount of award monies will be used to purchase personal protective equipment.

Highlands Council Annual Report – The New Jersey Highlands Council has published its 2023 Annual Report online at www.nj.gov/njhighlands.

NJNG Gas Main Installation – The township has received notice from the New Jersey Department of Transportation that directional drilling for the new gas main installation along Route 10 would begin on Friday, April 5 at 10:00 p.m. This will be a year-long construction project to replace 6.5 miles of gas main that is estimated to be completed in June of 2025. There will be no anticipated service interruptions associated with this installation to either residential or commercial customers. Construction will require a single lane, flagger-controlled closures of Route 10 westbound. Construction along Route 10 may impact intersecting streets to Route 10 and may require road closures with detours as necessary.

Recycling Tonnage Grant Award – A press release about the township’s recent award from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Recycling Tonnage Grant was published on the township website. The grant amount of \$69,288 correlates with the recycling rate achieved by Randolph, highlighting the impact of the township’s collective commitment to sustainability.

D. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2024 and March 7, 2024. Councilmember Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum – Abstained to the February 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
Councilman Forstenhausler
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilmember Potter
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None

F. COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS

1. R 76-24 Recreation Department Refunds for Various Individuals
2. R 77-24 Authorizing Shared Services Agreement With Roxbury for Construction Official/Building Inspector, HHS and Electrical Inspector Services - 2024 Through 2028
3. R 78-24 Extending Maintenance Contract for Township's Fire Apparatus With W. Campbell Supply Company, Inc. for the Period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 With Option to Extend
4. R 79-24 Awarding a Contract for On-Site Brush Grinding Services to The Firewood Farm, Inc. for the Not to Exceed Amount of \$75,000 for Period of May 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024 With Option to Extend
5. Raffle License - Tricky Tray, Randolph Chemical Engine Company No. 2, May 18, 2024, 5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at 340 Route 10 West, Randolph

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

AYES: Councilmember Elbaum
Councilman Forstenhausler – Abstained to Item #3, R-78-24 and Item #5, Raffle License.
Councilmember Nisivoccia
Councilmember Potter
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Hathaway
Mayor Carey
NAYS: None

G. 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. Randolph Reminisces, Monday, April 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at Randolph Museum
3. COUNCIL ONLY - (DATE CHANGE) Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce Speed Networking Event, Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Randolph Diner, 517 Route 10 East, Randolph
4. 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
5. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Exotic Sweets, Friday, April 19, 2024, 5:00 p.m., 477 Route 10, Unit 3, Randolph
6. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, SIP Abacus & Brain Gym, Friday, April 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m., 486 Route 10, Randolph
7. 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
8. Little League Opening Day Parade, Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. at Freedom Park
9. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Lyttle Dream Team Realty, Saturday, April 20, 2024, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 111 Canfield Avenue, Suite A13, Randolph
10. Earth Day Walk and Talk About Water, Saturday, April 20, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at Brundage Park
11. Community Garage Sale, April 20 - 21, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine
12. COUNCIL ONLY - Brundage Park 45th Anniversary Celebration, Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the Brundage Park Playhouse
13. 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.
14. Celebration of the 60th Birthday of the Randolph Township Free Public Library, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
15. Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Expo, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Randolph Township Community Center
16. 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.

H. ORDINANCES: INTRODUCTION

1. Ordinance 09-24 Amending Ordinance 14-23 to Provide and Determine the Range of Compensation for Specified Employees in the Township of Randolph

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of the said Ordinance is to establish and set forth the salaries, wages and compensation for the Township employees listed herein that will be in effect starting January 1, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitle, “An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 14-23 to Provide and Determine the Range of Compensation for Specified Employees in the Township of Randolph” 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 times, 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.

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

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

I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ron Gupta of 5 Lake Cherokee Drive referred to Ordinance 09-24, and asked who the term “specified employees” applied to. Manager Poff explained that the ordinance establishes the maximum an individual could be paid; it did not necessarily reflect what the designated salaries were.

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

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Veech reported that the Planning Board passed a final resolution for the Ludiro project; the resolution included a number of conditions. She informed the council that two topics would eventually be presented to them for consideration; the discussion would involve the responsibility of road improvement costs and a proposal for the vacation of a parcel of land on Woodlawn Terrace.

She distributed copies of an article from the NJ Planner for the council’s review. The article pertained to NJ Sober Living Residence Regulations: Balancing Need with Neighborhood Compatibility.

Councilmember Nisivoccia attended an Environmental and Landmark Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 26. He reported that committee member Walter Nickens was appointed to the Raritan Headwaters Committee. He shared that the Environmental and Landmark Committee was working on many different projects, and discussed options for composting. He stated that the Earth Day Watershed Hike was scheduled for Saturday, April 20.

He reported that the Municipal Alliance Committee met on March 26. The committee discussed the 20 exhibitors who signed up for the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Expo. Sergeant Rispoli reported that the Police Department participated in a 10-week-long LEAD Program. The department also reached out to the Morris County Sheriff's Office for ideas for the Opioid Settlement funds.

Councilmember Potter reported that the Parks Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, March 12. She shared that the committee members would be conducting walkthroughs of the various trails. She informed the council that the bench program was updated to replace the wood benches with a composite material that will last about 20 years rather than the 8–10-year life of the original benches. She reported that the comments on social media posts for the committee and parks' Facebook pages have been turned off due to scamming activities.

Councilmember Elbaum had nothing to report for this meeting.

Councilman Forstenhausler reported that the Traffic Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 2. He shared that the committee acknowledged that the number one traffic issue was that commuters were driving in a hurry. The committee also discussed the Park Avenue and Pleasant Hill Road intersection. Signs were placed at the site, in addition to reflective strips and landscaping. The homeowner in that area was approached with the proposal to remove additional trees, but the proposal was declined. He stated that the committee's police liaison planned to gather additional data about accidents at the intersection.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway shared that he signed up to be a coach on a recreation team. He was able to experience how the recreation staff and committee members work in their official capacity. He participated in the various coach and safety training seminars. He commended the recreation department for creating detailed and thorough training sessions. He concluded his comments by stating that he was looking forward to the spring season.

Mayor Carey reported that she attended a Wildlife Management Advisory Committee. She shared that hunters have culled 37 deer. Hunters who have solely been culling male deer with antlers will be informed that they need to harvest female deer as well.

She and Councilman Forstenhausler presented John Pedrick with a proclamation honoring his 50 years of service with the Randolph Township Fire Department.

She reported that the Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, April 2. The committee discussed preparation for the Country Fair, and the criteria for the business achievement awards and the shop local rewards.

She attended a recent Kiwanis meeting to give the organization an update on the township. She concluded her report by sharing that she, Deputy Mayor Hathaway, Manager Poff, and Parks and Recreation Director Russ Newman met with the Randolph PEACE Group to address some questions the group had about insurance requirements for its Juneteenth Celebration. The group came away from the meeting with the understanding that they were required to obtain insurance coverage for the event under the township's policy. She stated that the event was tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 1st at 11:00 a.m.

K. 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. 1275 Sussex Turnpike Restrictive Covenant
 - B. Attorney Client Privilege: Communication
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 6:38 p.m.
Councilmember Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to close the Executive Session and reopen the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

NAYS: None

L. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Potter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

NAYS: None