

Township of Randolph
Municipal Building
Randolph, NJ
April 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
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

Tax Appeal Settlement – Tax Assessor Glen Sherman reports a settlement has been reached for tax years 2012 through 2022 on the Ford/Lincoln dealership located at 906 Route 10 WB. The settlement results in a total refund of approximately \$97,216.42 covering all eleven tax years and applying the Freeze Act for tax years 2023 and 2024. The total refund is approximately 4.36% of the total taxes under appeal. In accordance with the proposed settlement, the plaintiff has agreed to waive interest contingent upon the refund being issued within sixty days of the issuance of the Judgment by the Tax Court of New Jersey. This settlement will conclude the appeals of the township's largest and oldest appeal to date. A resolution authorizing this settlement is being prepared and will be presented to the Township Council for its consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Rabies Voucher Program – The Board of Health, having considered this matter at its April 9 meeting, unanimously recommended that the Township Council consider increasing the per shot reimbursement to Veterinarians who participate in the township's rabies voucher program from \$6.00 to \$12.00. An increase in the reimbursement was also considered timely as the last increase was over 15 years ago. Inflationary and labor market impact on the economy was also discussed as a cost driver and a factor in maintaining veterinary participation, which has waned over the years. An ordinance amendment will be prepared for the Township Council's consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Canoe Brook – Woodmont Properties will be working Saturday, April 20 to install a storm pipe along the site driveway to the property at 855 Route 10 to convey the storm drainage system for the Canoe Brook development to the rear of this property. This work needs to be completed on Saturday to avoid conflicts with the existing office building use as this is the only access to the property. Notices were hand-delivered to the three residences on Route 10 WB as well as to the houses on the cul-de-sac of Diane Court.

Veterans Community Park – The dog bowl at Veterans Community Park has been replaced and repaired. As the plumbing in the parks is winterized, the project was delayed until the water was turned back on.

Township Engineer – One of the key initiatives of the 2024 budget has been completed with the hiring of a full-time engineer. Ms. Trista Kuna-Santos is a professional engineer and certified floodplain manager. She comes to us with more than twelve years of professional experience having most recently served as the Manager of Engineering Services for the Morris County Park Commission. Ms. Kuna-Santos will begin her employment with the township on Monday, April 22.

After-Action Reviews (AAR) – Two after-action reviews have been held within the past week to assess our performance during the recent earthquake and the Morris County Utilities Authority (MCMUA) water main break. The AAR seeks to answer the following five questions:

1. What was supposed to happen?
2. What was the reality?
3. What went well?
4. What did not go well?
5. What should be changed for the next time?

MCMUA Water Main Break – An AAR was held on Friday, April 12 with representatives from the MCMUA and Morris County. The MCMUA Executive Director Larry Gindoff thanked the township, specifically the water and sewer division, for its assistance in responding to the water main break. The MCMUA Consulting Engineer Michael McAloon reviewed what happened and the steps taken to restore water service. The Morris County Assistant Director of Risk Management Peter Gordon was present. He indicated that he was the point of contact for property owners who sustained any damage as a result of the water main break.

Earthquake – Department heads as well as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Library Director participated in an AAR, which was held on Wednesday, April 17. Participants were asked to share their department’s experiences, observations, and recommendations during the meeting. Topics discussed included communications, emergency management, as well as policies and procedures. A number of good action items came out of the AAR and will be the basis for follow-up over the next few months.

Assistant Manager Greer informed the council that the delivery of the monthly reports would be resumed. He stated that the goal of the reports was to be transparent and provide a comprehensive overview of the operations and achievements of the township departments.

Additionally, he reported that an infographic has been developed with the assistance of Zoning Officer Richard Biase and Communication Director Robert Rios. The infographic will help inform residents about permissible sign placement around the community.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway asked what time the Canoe Project would start. Manager Poff informed him that the project operations would likely start no later than 8:00 a.m., he added that the project requirements did not allow work after 4:00 p.m.

Councilmember Nisivoccia asked if any other information was expected from the Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA). Manager Poff explained that the MUA has communicated that they are working with their consulting engineer to look into evaluating and replacing/repairing the pipe. He stated that the significant assistance from the township to the MUA for the emergency water main break would be formalized in a shared services agreement in the event of future incidents occurring.

Mayor Carey asked if the water main break was definitively due to the earthquake. Manager Poff stated that it was reasonable to make that assumption. He explained the pipe dimensions and added that the transmission line was under pressure.

Councilmember Potter asked how many residents were affected by the break. Manager Poff stated that the residence in front of the site was greatly affected and that three surrounding properties experienced some water damage.

D. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Authorizing the Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2024

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2024. 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
ABSTAIN: Councilmember Potter

E. 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET/PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION

1. R 80-24 Authorizing Reading 2024 Township of Randolph Budget by Title Only

Manager Poff explained that R-80-24 allowed the budget to be read by title only.

Councilmember Potter made a motion to approve R-80-24, Authorizing the Reading of the 2024 Township of Randolph Budget by Title Only. 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

2. Public Hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget

Township Auditor Kathryn Mantell of 63 Combs Hollow Road commended CFO Bonanno, Manager Poff, the Township Council and township staff for their efforts in assisting with the preparation of the budget.

3. R 81-24 Adoption of 2024 Municipal Budget

Manager Poff explained that every year the Township Council is required by law to adopt a Municipal Budget. The Manager and administrative staff prepare recommendations in the form of a draft budget, but the council must ensure that the adopted budget satisfies the needs of the community.

Like prior years, where the focus has been on sustaining programs and services, the 2024 budget does just that, it maintains, and in a few areas, enhances current service levels. This year's budget reflects that continued effort and satisfies the operation objectives of each department while balancing the council's goals of improving financial accountability and meeting the service demands of residents and the infrastructure needs of our community.

The proposed 2024 budget calls for appropriations of \$36,610,146. This represents a 3.82% increase or \$1,346,200 from the adopted 2023 budget. Significant dollar increases are seen in the following

appropriations: insurance, recycling, recreation services, and capital improvements.

The expense side of the budget is assigned by department and divided within each department in “Salary and Wages” and “Other Expenses.” These expenditures are presented in a line-item budget format. Appropriations are the mechanism that allows local government to deliver services to its taxpayers.

The 2024 budget advances several key initiatives, including:

1. Restoring the position of a full-time Township Engineer. This initiative will allow the township to address a number of projects and facility improvements, which have been deferred.
2. Implementing a customer relationship management solution that empowers residents to report issues, identify repair needs, share feedback, and ask questions of their local government. The system will allow for more efficient and transparent workflows, fostering accountability and trust.
3. Funding a 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.
4. Advancing 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.

The cumulative impact of the modifications outlined in the March 21 budget memo, results in a reduction to the tax rate increase from \$0.009 to \$0.007. As previously stated, the decision to increase taxes is carefully considered in the context of the township’s long term fiscal integrity and the increase in a number of non-discretionary expense items. The proposed rate increase of 1.49% represents an annual increase of \$39.00 (or \$3.25 per month) for the average assessed home of \$491,284.

This year’s budget uses a greater amount of fund balance to limit the increase in the municipal portion of property taxes. Notwithstanding, this year’s budget maintains a prudent level of surplus in order to avoid potential spikes in future tax rates. The 2024 municipal budget, as presented, maintains current service levels. These services are being provided as best as can be in accordance with residents’ expectations and contribute to the quality of life for all taxpayers in Randolph Township.

He thanked CFO Debbie Bonanno for her assistance in the preparation of the 2024 municipal budget. He commended the council for not taking the responsibility of being good fiscal stewards lightly. He appreciated the council’s concern for details and constructive guidance throughout the process.

Manager Poff read R-81-24, Adoption of the 2024 Municipal Budget, 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

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

1. General Revenues		
Surplus Anticipated	08-100	\$ 7,398,207.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	13-099	\$ 14,291,870.52
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	15-499	\$ 547,259.00
2. Amount To Be Raised By Taxation For Municipal Purposes (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	07-190	\$ 21,001,606.00
3. Amount To Be Raised By Taxation For Schools in Type I School Districts Only:		
Item 6, Sheet 42	07-195	\$ 0.00
Item 6(b), sheet 11 (N.J.S. 40A:4-14)	07-191	\$ 0.00
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Schools in Type I School Districts Only		\$ 0.00
4. To Be Added To The Certificate For Amount To Be Raised By Taxation For <u>Schools in Type II</u> School Districts Only:		
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S. 40A:4-14)	07-191	\$ 0.00
5. Amount To Be Raised By Taxation Minimum Library Levy	07-192	\$ 1,747,938.00
Total Revenues	13-299	\$ 44,986,880.52

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS

5. General Appropriations	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxx
Within "CAPS"	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxx
(a&b) Operations Including Contingent	34-201	\$ 27,778,371.00
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures – Municipal	34-209	\$ 2,992,970.00
(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	\$ 0.00
Excluded from "CAPS"	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxx
(a) Operations – Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	34-305	\$ 6,995,360.52
(c) Capital Improvements	44-999	\$ 3,141,000.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	45-999	\$ 1,341,824.00
(e) Deferred Charges - Municipal	46-999	\$ 15,000.00
(f) Judgements	37-480	\$ 0.00
(n) Transferred to Board of Education for Use of Local Schools (N.J.S. 40:48-17.1 & 17.3)	29-405	\$ 0.00

(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	\$ 0.00
(k) For Local District School Purposes	29-410	\$ 0.00
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (Include Other Reserves if Any)	50-899	\$ 2,722,355.00
6. School Appropriations – Type I School Districts Only (N.J.S. 40A:4-13)	07-195	\$
Total Appropriations	34-499	\$ 44,986,880.52

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 18th day of April, 2024. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2024 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

Councilwoman Veech stated that she was very proud of the township's transparency and accountability throughout the budget process. She noted that multiple public budget meetings and departmental budget review meetings were held. She stated that the 2024 Municipal Budget marked the 13th township budget she reviewed and that she was very happy with it.

Councilman Forstenhausler commended Manager Poff and CFO Bonanno for their efforts in preparing the budget. He thanked the township departments for their work. He noted that the slight increase in the budget was based on the current economy; he appreciated that they did their best to keep the increase to a minimum while also allowing the continuation of township services and the onboarding of the Township Engineer. He stated that the budget deliberations are a public process, and he had wished more members of the public attended and participated.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway echoed previous comments. He thanked Manager Poff and CFO Bonanno for their leadership in bringing the budget to life. He believed that the budget delivered on the township's mission statement while covering key initiatives that make the township safer, healthier, and more responsive to resident needs.

Mayor Carey supported the adoption of the budget. She stated that she was proud of the township's strong history of fiscal responsibility. She noted that the budget was well thought out and focused on balancing the needs of the township, the continual provision of high-quality services, and sound fiscal management while minimizing the tax impacts on residents. She shared that many residents have found that they receive great value for their taxes when they learn how much of the funds are allocated to the township. She stated that Randolph was fortunate to have outstanding professionals within its municipal organization.

Councilman Forstenhausler made a motion to approve R-81-24, Adoption of the 2024 Municipal Budget. 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

F. COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS

1. R 82-24 Authorizing Tax Collector to Redeem and Refund Tax Sale Certificate #21-03 to Fundpality II, LLC, for Block 101, Lot 4, 1204 Sussex Turnpike - \$411,212.62
2. R 83-24 Authorizing Refund Recreation Program Fees to Various Individuals
3. R 84-24 Authorizing Collection of Delinquent Taxes, Assessments and Other Municipal Charges
4. R 85-24 Authorizing Refund of Tax Payment Made in Error by Corelogic for Block 160, Lot 35, 12 Deer Run Road - \$,356.85
5. R 86-24 Authorizing Request for Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations - Distracted Driving Crackdown: UDrive. UText. UPay Grant - \$8,750.00
6. R 87-24 Authorizing Rejection of a Bid for MCCPC Contract #43 (Propane Gas)

Councilmember Potter made a motion to approve the combined action agenda. 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

G. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Exotic Sweets, Friday, April 19, 2024, 5:00 p.m., 477 Route 10, Unit 3, Randolph
2. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, SIP Abacus & Brain Gym, Friday, April 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m., 486 Route 10, Randolph
3. 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
4. Little League Opening Day Parade, Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. at Freedom Park
5. 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
6. Earth Day Walk and Talk About Water, Saturday, April 20, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at Brundage 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. Township Shredding Event, Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Randolph Township Municipal Building
10. COUNCIL ONLY - Energizing the Future ... An Evening in Support of County College of Morris College Promise Programs, Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
11. 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.
12. Celebration of the 60th Birthday of the Randolph Township Free Public Library, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
13. Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Expo, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Randolph Township Community Center
14. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Las Delicias De Triny, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 1:00 p.m., 477 Route 10, Randolph
15. 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.
16. Artworks Studio Painting Exhibition Reception, Thursday, May 9, 2024, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Randolph Township Municipal Building

H. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

- 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**

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 read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

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 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 Nisivoccia made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Deputy Mayor Hathaway 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

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

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 read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

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 passed on final reading and that a Notice of Final Passage of said Ordinance be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

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

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

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 read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

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 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 Potter made a motion to adopt the ordinance. 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

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

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 read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

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 passed on final reading and that a Notice of Final Passage of said Ordinance be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Forstenhausler 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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 14-23 to Provide and Determine the Range of Compensation for Specified Employees in the Township of Randolph, be read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 14-23 to Provide and Determine the Range of Compensation for Specified Employees in the Township of Randolph, 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 Potter made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilmember Nisivoccia 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

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Forstenhausler reported that the Fire Department held a Class A Burn Training Event at the Morris County Fire Academy on Monday, April 8.

He reported that he and a few other members of the council attended a New Jersey League of Municipalities meeting to discuss local issues with officials from other municipalities. He stated that the event was a great learning resource as it offered different perspectives from across Morris County.

Earlier in the day he participated in the Health Department's Free Cancer Screening program at the Morris County Health Pavilion. He encouraged everyone to participate in the program.

Councilmember Elbaum reported that the Board of Health met on Monday, April 8. The board reviewed the veterinarian reimbursements for the rabies voucher program and increasing fees for spayed cats and dogs. Additionally, the board discussed the upcoming male and female cancer screening programs. She concluded her report by sharing that March 2023 and March 2024 data demonstrated that the township's regular residential tonnage had decreased and recycling had increased.

Councilmember Potter reported that the Parks Advisory Committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum. The Trails Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, April 17; the committee discussed amending the trails ordinance to include specific language about e-bikes not being allowed on the trails. She shared that the Fairy Trail coordinators were contacting vendors for opening day festivities, securing event insurance, and looking into obtaining an interactive display. The committee is also working with the library to collaborate on the event; 125 participants have registered to build a fairy house for the trail.

Councilmember Nisivoccia commended the township for the overall handling of the earthquake and water main break. He stopped by the affected site during the repair job and found that the crew and staff were on top of every last detail, working well with residents, and communicating with the public promptly.

He shared that he brought his son to the Fire Department's Class A Burn Training. He noted the synchronization, precision, and professionalism of the Volunteer Fire Department.

He attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities meeting and commented that it was interesting to hear how other municipalities were approaching the same challenges.

He concluded his report by sharing that the Land-Use Workgroup met earlier in the week to review the timeline and requirements for the next round of Affordable Housing and the state's development and redevelopment plans. The workgroup also weighed the option of permitting a new car and truck dealership in the B4 Commercial Zone; Manager Poff was directed to prepare required ordinance changes for consideration.

Councilwoman Veech attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities meeting. During the meeting, Morristown Airport presented information about various improvements to their facility. She also met with a number of municipal representatives and the Morris County Commissioners to discuss community issues such as affordable housing and development.

On Tuesday, April 16, she attended the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce Networking meeting. At the event, she discussed the council's responsibilities and listened to feedback from local businesses. Many individuals shared positive remarks about the township's services and assistance.

She reported that the Communication Workgroup received comparable data about the number of social media followers before and after the earthquake. The workgroup was looking into ways to get more residents to sign up and follow social media communications. She commended Mayor Carey for her comprehensive and timely response to the earthquake.

She shared that the Facilities Workgroup was continuing to move forward with the planning of the cultural arts center. She encouraged residents to take note of the many diverse and inclusive activities that will be offered by the township in the coming months.

She concluded her report by noting that the Community Garden's Thursday, June 6 dinner should be noted on the agenda's upcoming events section.

Deputy Mayor Hathaway reported that the Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, April 11. The board was updated with various library program data. He noted the success of the library's new "Spice of the Month" program and its seedling distribution event through the Neighborhood Forest Organization. He shared that the library gave away over 1000 solar eclipse glasses in three days.

He echoed Councilmember Nisivoccia's comments about the township's great communication in response to the earthquake. He noted the importance of investing in the communication capabilities, and personnel expertise. He thanked the staff for their efforts and shared that many residents have expressed positive feedback about the township's response.

Councilmember Nisivoccia asked Deputy Mayor Hathaway about his experience thus far as a recreation track coach. Deputy Mayor Hathaway stated that it was going well. He was appreciative of the Parks and Recreation Department's Inclusion Track initiative, which gave kids who may not be ready for a full-speed track program the opportunity to experience the teamwork and comradery of the sport. He commended the department for working with the community to broaden the program's reach.

Mayor Carey echoed previous comments about the earthquake. She stated that the township staff did a great job, and thanked Communications Director Robert Rios and Assistant Manager Stuart Greer for their efforts.

She shared that she and Deputy Mayor Hathaway attended the Mt. Freedom Jewish Center's 100th Anniversary Gala, and a STEM Gala at Gottesman Academy.

She concluded her report by sharing that she attended the Randolph Reminisces program hosted by the Historical Society of Randolph on Monday, April 15. She informed the council that Michael Whiting had installed the timeline tags on the Liberty Tree Slice at the Randolph Museum. He reached out to schedule a dedication ceremony for the tree slices on Thursday, May 23.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held for this meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Potter 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