

Sean E. Powers  
President  
At Large

Shannon L. Hume  
At Large

CHARLES C. Kokoros  
District 1

John C. Mullaney  
District 2

Thomas M. Bowes  
District 3



Charles B. Ryan  
Vice President  
At Large

Stephen C. O'Brien  
District 4

Michael J. Owens  
District 5

PAUL "DAN" CLIFFORD  
District 6

## OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

### DECEMBER 5, 2017

### MINUTES

The meeting of the Town Council, was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Powers was in the chair.

Clerk of the Council, Susan Cimino conducted the roll call.

Present: Sean Powers, President  
Charles Ryan, Vice President  
Thomas Bowes  
Paul Dan Clifford  
Shannon Hume  
John Mullaney  
Michael Owens  
Charles Kokoros  
Stephen C. O'Brien

Also Present: Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor  
Joe Reynolds, Chief of Staff  
Ed Spellman, Finance Director  
James Arsenault, DPW Director  
Barbara Mello, Grant Writer  
Dan Sullivan, Town Auditor  
Lou Dutton, Water & Sewer  
Mike Walsh, Tri-town  
Tim Carey, Councilor-elect  
Thomas Whalen, Councilor-elect  
Mike Barbuto, resident  
Board of Assessors:  
Robert Brinkmann, Deputy Assessor  
Robert Cusack, Chairman  
Susan Bruynell O'Brien, Vice Chairman  
Robert Connolly, Member

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 093 17 Council President: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Braintree Christmas Party, December 7<sup>TH</sup>@6pm
- The Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance event will take place on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am Town Hall.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- October 17, 2017
  - Motion:** by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of October 17, 2017
  - Second:** by Councilor Bowes
  - Vote:** For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)
- November 8, 2017
  - Motion:** by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of November 8, 2017
  - Second:** by Councilor Bowes
  - Vote:** For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 091 17 Tri Town Water Board RE: Water Treatment Plant Project Update (PowerPoint presentation)  
Mayor Sullivan presented the Tri-Town PowerPoint presentation explaining we would share this project with Holbrook and Randolph. The expected new water treatment plant in service would be November 2021. Mayor Sullivan stated this would give Braintree better quality drinking water, a single state of the art facility replacing two antiquated and costly facilities, fully automated allowing for remote trouble-shooting.

Councilor Clifford left the meeting at 8:32pm

## **CITIZEN CONCERNS/COUNCIL RESPONSE**

- 092 17 Mike Barbuto: Truck Traffic  
Mike Barbuto, resident of South Street stated I am here because this is ridiculous. There are so many trucks each day going down South Street.  
Councilor Clifford agreed stating we have a playground and a school nearby.  
Councilor Kokoros stated I will talk to the Mayor to see how to go about this process to restrict trucks from South Street and also Peach Street. We will work with the Mayor and Town Engineer on this.  
Council President Powers stated there will be some future meetings w/MASS DOT on this with the Mayor. We need to protect our neighbors.  
Mayor Sullivan stated I have been to Mike Barbutos home. I acknowledge the volume of truck traffic needs to be restricted or eliminated. There are many working on this including James Arsenault, Bob Campbell, Joe Reynolds, Representative Cusack and myself all in the conversation on how to best approach this. There is a meeting tentatively scheduled in January with the state. There could be two approaches: one being to ask for a total elimination and the second being based on the size of vehicle. Representative Cusack got an additional crosswalk light at the playground. We are looking at possible lights at South Street onto Route 37. We need to have a future conversation about traffic lights here.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **17 073 Town Clerk: Adoption of Code or take up any action relative thereto**  
Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 17 073
  - Motion:** by Councilor Ryan
  - Second:** by Councilor Bowes
  - Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (0)

Motion by Councilor Ryan to TABLE and CONTINUE the Public Hearing to the next Council meeting on December 19, 2017

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (0)

• **17 076 Mayor: Tax Rate Classification or take up any action relative thereto (PUBLIC HEARING)**

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 17 076

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (0)

Council President Powers referred to Councilor O'Brien, Chairman for Committee of Ways & Means recommendation. Councilor O'Brien stated the committee unanimously voted a favorable recommendation to the full Council. Chairman O'Brien stated this shift to commercial businesses makes the tax percentage favorable to residents.

Council President Powers asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 17 076?

Mayor Sullivan stated our strong commercial base is leverage for our residential votes for operations of our Town and services.

Councilor Kokoros stated this is an important vote we take. We are doing the right thing to make sure we can accomplish things for our town.

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Close Public Hearing for Order 17 076

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (0)

MOTIONS read by Councilor Ryan:

1. To apply the tax rate classification shift.

MOTION: Be it ordained that the Town of Braintree, through the Braintree Town Council, adopt the recommendation of the Mayor and the Board of Assessors to approve the Classification Tax Rate Shift of 175% to be applied to commercial, industrial and personal property.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (0)

2. Re: the small business exemption.  
MOTION: To approve the "Small Business Exemption" as recommended by the Mayor and the Board of Assessors in a memorandum to the Town Council dated November 15, 2017 and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (7), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (1-Kokoros)

3. Re: the open space discount.

MOTION: To continue to adopt the recommendation of the Mayor and the Board of Assessors, as outlined in a memorandum to the Town Council dated November 15, 2017 and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk, to decline the "Open Space" discount.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (0)

4. Re: the residential exemption.

MOTION: To continue to adopt the recommendation of the Mayor and the Board of Assessors, as outlined in a memorandum dated November 15, 2017 and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk, to decline the adoption of the "Residential Exemption"

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Clifford), Abstain (0)

Councilor Owens left the meeting at 8:56pm

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- NONE

Councilor Ryan read the following Motions for referrals to committee(s):

#### **Refer to the Committee on Ways & Means**

- 17 077 Mayor: Request Approval for Braintree Municipal Golf Simulators or take up any action relative thereto

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

**Vote:** For (7), Against (0), Absent (2-Clifford, Owens), Abstain (0)

**Refer to the Committee on Community Planning**

- 094 17 Council President: Housing Production Plan or take up any action relative thereto
  - Motion:** by Councilor Ryan
  - Second:** by Councilor Bowes
  - Vote:** For (7), Against (0), Absent (2-Clifford, Owens), Abstain (0)
- 095 17 Council President: Braintree Square, South Braintree Square and Weymouth Landing Issues or take up any action relative thereto
  - Motion:** by Councilor Ryan
  - Second:** by Councilor Bowes
  - Vote:** For (7), Against (0), Absent (2-Clifford, Owens), Abstain (0)

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino  
Clerk of the Council

**Documents provided for Meeting**

- 17 073 Town Clerk: Adoption of Code or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 17 076 Mayor: Tax Rate Classification or take up any action relative thereto