

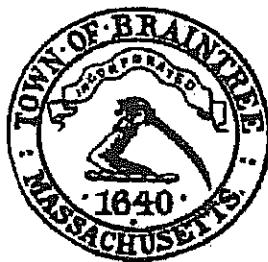
LELAND A. DINGEE
President

CHARLES RYAN
Vice President

HAROLD RANDOLPH
At Large

CHARLES KOKOROS
District 1

JOHN MULLANEY
District 2



THOMAS BOWES
District 3

HENRY JOYCE
District 4

RONALD DENAPOLI
District 5

PAUL "DAN" CLIFFORD
District 6

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

November 18, 2008

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held in the Johnson Memorial Chambers, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Council President Dingee was in the chair.

Clerk of the Council, James Casey, conducted the roll call.

Present: Leland A. Dingee, President
Charles B. Ryan, Vice-President
John C. Mullaney
Thomas Bowes
Henry N. Joyce
Paul Dan Clifford
Charles Kokoros

Not Present: Harold Randolph
Ronald DeNapoli

Also Present: Peter Morin, Chief of Staff
Edward Spellman, Finance Director
Board of Assessors (R. Cusack, R. Connolly, S. O'Brien)
Marie George, Deputy Assessor
Various Residents

There was a moment of silence for all those serving in our armed services, past and present, and the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- AN 08 003 Councilor Ryan: Health BFFE Raffle Sales – Ross School
- AN 08 004 SEMASS: Change of Saturday “hours of operation”/Electronic Drop-Off Collection Day
- AN 08 005 Council President: House Fire – Glenrose Avenue
- AN 08 006 Health Department: Flu Clinic – Braintree High School November 19th (3pm to 7pm)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 5, 2008

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to accept minutes

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: Unanimous

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COUNCIL RESPONSE

None

OLD BUSINESS

- 08 071 Board of Assessors: FY2009 Tax Levy – Public Hearing

Motion: by Susan O’Brien to call the Board of Assessors meeting to order.

Second: by Robert Connolly

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to open Public Hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: Unanimous

Peter Morin, Mayor’s Chief of Staff, highlighted comments from a letter dated November 18, 2008 from Mayor Sullivan, and distributed to Council Members prior to the meeting, that the Mayor agreed with the Board of Assessors recommendation to maintain the tax classification shift at 175%. This would result in a residential tax rate of \$9.07 and a commercial rate of approximately \$20.13.

Council President Dingee asked if December 2nd was the last date that the Council could vote on setting the FY2009 Tax Levy. Mr. Morin explained that the Mayor would like the Council to vote on it by that date as they need approximately three weeks to process the tax bills and it would allow the Town to maintain a steady cash flow through the beginning of the new year.

Councilor Clifford distributed and explained M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41c. This Chapter of the Massachusetts General Laws is a local option from Massachusetts municipalities to adjust age and income factors in accordance with the State allowances. It would allow more seniors to qualify and receive a \$500 property tax exemption. In addition, the State reimburses municipalities 100% on this exemption. Mr. Morin stated that the Mayor is fully supportive of this abatement as long as the Commonwealth fulfills its commitment to fully reimburse the Town.

Councilor Mullaney asked why the Mayor would think that the State would not reimburse the Town. Mr. Morin explained that with the declining economy the Governor has indicated that there would be a reduction in local contribution. It is believed the local aid reduction for Braintree would be approximately 7% or about \$1.2 million. He felt it was better to check twice with the State to see if they are committed to fully reimburse the Town for this abatement.

Council President Dingee explained that it was the intention of the Council to table the public hearing until the next Council meeting on December 2nd and refer this matter to the Committee of Ways and Means for further review.

Councilors Ryan and Kokoros both agreed with the additional time frame and were supportive of the recommendation from the Board of Assessors and Mayor on the 175% shift.

Councilor Mullaney asked if he could be provided with a copy of 2008 selling prices of all commercial properties for the November 25th meeting of the Committee of Ways and Means. Marie George, Deputy Assessor, indicated only a handful of sales took place in 2008 and she would provide the Committee with a copy. Councilor Mullaney asked if the Committee disagreed with the assessments of these properties did the Council have authority to make any changes. Mr. Morin stated that the Council did not have the authority to make changes.

Mr. Morin explained that the newly assessed values of properties were established on January 1st of this year. Although the market has collapsed since that time, the next valuation would reflect any changes.

Council President Dingee asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak on this matter. No one accepted his offer.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer to the Committee of Ways & Means
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to close public hearing
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Susan O'Brien to adjourn the Board of Assessors meeting.
Second: by Robert Connolly
Vote: Unanimous

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN BOARDS

None

NEW BUSINESS

REFER TO COMMITTEE

Committee on the Department of Public Works

- 08 072 Department of Planning and Community Development: Deed Acceptance – Ashworth Avenue

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer to Committee

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: Unanimous

Committee on Ways & Means

- 08 073 Mayor: Notice of Appointment – Fence Viewer
- 08 074 Mayor: Fiscal Year 2008 Unpaid Bills – Medical Payments for Police Officer (\$315.81)

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer to Committee

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: Unanimous

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James M. Casey
Clerk of the Council