

Thomas M. Bowes
President
District 3

Shannon L. Hume
At Large

CHARLES B. Ryan
At Large

CHARLES C. Kokoros
District 1

JOHN C. MULLANEY
District 2



Sean E. Powers
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

November 18, 2014

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held in the Horace T. Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Bowes was in the chair.

The Clerk of the Council conducted the roll call.

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

Not Present: Shannon Hume

Others: Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor
Michael Coughlin, Chief of Staff
Peter Morin, Town Solicitor
Ed Spellman, Finance Director
Robert Brinkmann, Deputy Assessor
Board of Assessors
Russ Jenkins, Chief of Police
BHS Students/Coaches: Football,Dance,Cheer

CORRESPONDENCE

- 084 14 Clerk of the Council: 2015 Proposed Meeting Calendar

Motion: by Councilor Owens to approve

Second: by Councilor O'Brien

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Hume)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At 8:20pm Council President called for a 5 minute recess. Meeting returned to order at 8:25pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 5, 2014

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Hume)

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COUNCIL RESPONSE

- 090 14 Council President: Update of Police Department/South Shore Plaza Holiday Plan

Council President stated Rick Tonzi, General Manager of the South Shore Plaza was unable to attend this evening. He sent a detailed packet of Holiday Plans which have been reviewed with Chief Jenkins. Chief Jenkins stated there have been some minor changes made from last year. The South Shore Plaza is supportive of additional officers if we need them.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN BOARDS

OLD BUSINESS

- 071 14 (A) Town Auditor Contract or take up any action relative thereto (**Public Hearing**)

Motion: by Councilor Powers to open public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Mullaney, Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means, stated the committee has met and supported this motion. It is recommended for favorable action.

Council President asked if any member of the Council or anyone from the public would like to speak on 071 14 (A).

Motion: by Councilor Powers to close public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Powers read the motions:

Pursuant to Section 2-8a of the Town Charter, through the Braintree Town Council approve a new three year contract from 04/01/2015 to 03/31/2018 for Eric Kinsherf as Town Auditor

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

- 071 14 (B) Outside Auditor Contract or take up any action relative thereto (**Public Hearing**)

Motion: by Councilor Powers to open public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Mullaney, Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means, stated the committee has met and supported this motion. It is recommended for favorable action.

Council President asked if any member of the Council or anyone from the public would like to speak on 071 14 (B).

Motion: by Councilor Powers to close public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Powers read the motions:

Pursuant to Section 6-11 of the Town Charter, through the Braintree Town Council approve a new three year contract for FY 2015, FY2016 and FY 2017 for Powers and Sullivan CPA as independent Certified Public Accountants

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

- 14 067 Mayor: Free Cash and Retained Earnings Approval or take up any action relative thereto (**Public Hearing**)

Motion: by Councilor Powers to open public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Mullaney, Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means, stated the committee has met and supported this motion. It is recommended for favorable action

Council President asked if any member of the Council or anyone from the public would like to speak on 14 067.

Mike Coughlin, Chief of Staff came to the podium and explained the three motions requested. (1) Stabilization Fund will be used for operational needs – one time expenditures that come up in the fiscal year. (2) Building Capital Stabilization Fund will support certain Capital items or debt and interest on Capital items. (3) Stabilization Fund for FY 2015 Capital to be set aside to pay for portion of the Town’s FY 2015 Capital Plan.

Councilor O'Brien asked if there are restrictions on how the Town's money is invested. Ed Spellman answered there are strict limits on where it can go and how it is invested.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to close public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Powers read 3 separate Motions and Voted on each as read.

14 067(1) Stabilization Fund

MOTION: That the sum of \$1,500,000 be transferred from the Fiscal Year 2014 certified Free Cash to the Town's Stabilization fund.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

14 067(2) Building Capital Stabilization Fund

MOTION: That the sum of \$500,000 be transferred from the Fiscal Year 2014 certified Free Cash to the Town's Building Capital Stabilization fund.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

14 067(3) Stabilization Fund for FY 2015 Capital

MOTION: That the sum of \$ 700,000 be transferred from the Fiscal Year 2014 certified Free Cash to the Town's Stabilization fund said funds to be set aside to pay for a portion of the Town's for the FY 2015 Capital Plan.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

- 14 069 Mayor: Supplemental Appropriations FY 15 or take up any action relative thereto (**Public Hearing**)

Motion: by Councilor Powers to open public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Mullaney, Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means, stated the committee has met and supported this motion. It is recommended for favorable action

Council President asked if any member of the Council or anyone from the public would like to speak on 14 069.

Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan stated we maintain fiscal management. We have taken upon the ability to put away money. Property value exceeds any property of towns that abut Braintree.

Mike Coughlin, Chief of Staff came to the podium and explained the eighteen motions requested.

Stephen Wallace, Detective Braintree Police Department commented on item #12 stating the emergency pull switch boxes will be replaced with new radio technology. There will also be 2-way call boxes at certain locations like perhaps a Waterpark.

Councilor O'Brien stated he would like to get more information to compare with other towns that have a ZBA administrative staff member. I will recommend to Full Council #14 be tabled for more information. Mike Coughlin, Chief of Staff stated he would get the additional information requested in a timely manner.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to close public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Powers read 18 separate Motions and Voted on each as read.

1. Human Resources -Staff replacement for medical leave.

MOTION: That the sum of \$20,528 be transferred from DPW/ FY 2013/ vehicle- lawnmower account and \$9,472 from the DPW/ FY 20111 vehicles for a total of \$30,000 be transferred to the Human Resources Department/ Program 01- Administration / Administrative Salaries account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

2. Library- Inadvertent omission of three (3) existing part time positions in FY 15 budget.

MOTION: That the sum of \$9,472 be transferred from the DPW/ FY 2011 capital/ vehicles account, \$4,750 be transferred from the Finance department/ FY 2014 actuarial valuation account and \$28,327 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund for a total of \$ 42,549 be transferred to the Library/ Program 05- Current Topic and Tiles/ Librarian account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

3. DPW- To complete basketball and tennis court refurbishment not covered in 2014 capital budget request.

MOTION: That the sum of \$45,230 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to the DPW Department/ Program 02- Facilities and Equipment Maintenance / Repair account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

4. DPW - To complete rehab of Highland School playground.

MOTION: That the sum of \$16,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to the DPW Department/ Program 02- Facilities and Equipment Maintenance / Repair account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

5. Municipal Licenses and Inspections- To fund unanticipated building safety and maintenance needs, as well as certain rodent control measures.

MOTION: That the sum of \$74,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to the Municipal Licenses and Inspections Department/ Program 05- Inspections and Code Enforcement / Mitigation account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

6. FIRE -To fund the Town's matching portion (10%) of \$349,000 FEMA Grant for Fire Department protective equipment and breathing apparatus.

MOTION: That the sum of \$34,939 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to Fire Department FEMA Grant account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

7. FIRE- To fund Fire Department's conversion to Bi-weekly payroll and bring payroll week ending dates current with rest of the Town.

MOTION: That the sum of \$120,674 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to Fire Department/ salary lines, and that the Director of Municipal Finance is authorized to allocate said sums to and among the various accounts affected thereby in such amounts as are proper and required.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

8. Finance - To fund additional copier and copy volume within Town Hall.

MOTION: That the sum of \$11,600 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to Finance Department/ Program 04 Accounting / photo copier rentals account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

9. Finance- Inadvertently omitted annual increase in IT support for Town computer networks.

MOTION: That the sum of \$25,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to Finance Department/ Program 08 Information Technology / Consultant account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

10. Finance- To fund Reverse 911 Technology for Town and Schools and resolve fiscal year invoice payment.

MOTION: That the sum of \$6,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to Finance Department/ Program 08 Information Technology / Blackboard connect account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

11. Human Resources - To fund additional health insurance costs for higher than expected rates of participation of new employees in schools and fire department positions.

MOTION: That the sum of \$134,234 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to Human Resources Department/ Program 04 Employee Benefits / Group Life and Medical Line account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

12. Police - To fund equipment and installation costs for transfer of Fire Alarm dispatch to Police Department in order to establish centralized dispatch center for the Town.

MOTION: That the sum of \$141,320 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund the Police Department/ Program 02- Building Maintenance / Equipment Maintenance account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

13. Planning and Development- To fund publicity and promotion of Braintree's participation in Life Science Corridor economic development initiative.

MOTION: That the sum of \$5,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund the Planning and Development Department/ Program 07- Economic Development/ Life Science Development account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

14. Planning and Development- To establish and fund Zoning Administrator position to staff and support the ZBA.

MOTION: That the sum of \$35,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund the Planning and Development Department/ Program 04- Planning / Zoning Administrator account.

14 069 Item #14 Tabled to December 2, 2014 at 7:30pm for more information to be provided by Mike Coughlin – comparing other towns Zoning Administrator.

Motion: by Councilor O'Brien to table item 14 069 (14)
Second: by Councilor Powers
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

15. Mayor- To fund membership to Metro Mayor's Coalition established by Metro Area Planning Council with communities of Boston, Brookline, Quincy and others.

MOTION: That the sum of \$10,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to the Mayor's Department/ Program 01- Administration / Dues and Memberships account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

16. Mayor- To fund Town of Braintree 375th Anniversary Celebration and Events.

MOTION: That the sum of \$50,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to the Mayor's Department / Program 01- Administration/Anniversary account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

17. Human Resources -To fund the Veterans POW - MIA Chair of Honor installation at Braintree High School.

MOTION: That the sum of \$2,200 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to the Human Resources Department / Program of Veterans Services / Veterans Benefits Account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

18. Legal- To fund unanticipated outside legal counsel expenses.

MOTION: That the sum of \$35,000 be transferred from the Town's Stabilization Fund to the Legal Services Department / Administration Program 011 Legal Services Account.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

- 14 070 Board of Assessors: FY2015 Tax Levy or take up any action relative thereto (**Public Hearing**)

Motion: by Councilor Powers to open public hearing

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Mullaney, Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means, stated the committee has met and supported this motion. It is recommended for favorable action. I believe businesses come into our town and they pay the price to be here. 37% is being paid by Commercial Real Estate.

Ed Spellman provided a spreadsheet on Town of Braintree FY 2015 Tax Rate Impact at various shifts. The average resident will pay approximately \$200 more in taxes.

Council President asked if any member of the Council or anyone from the public would like to speak on the FY2015 Tax Levy. No one came forward.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to close public hearing
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

Councilor Powers read the first of four motions provided to the Council Office in a memorandum to the Town Council dated October 31, 2014.

- (1) Favorable action to 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 Powers to approve Order 14 070(1)
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

- (2) Favorable action to approve the “Small Business Exemption” as recommended by the Mayor and the Board of Assessors in a memorandum to the Town Council dated October 31, 2014 and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk.**

Motion: by Councilor O’Brien to approve Order 14 070(2)
Second: by Councilor Powers
Vote: For (7), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume), Abstain (1-Kokoros)

- (3) Favorable action to continue to adopt the recommendation of the Mayor and the Board of Assessors, as outlined in a memorandum to the Town Council dated October 31, 2014 and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk, to decline the adoption of the “Open Space” discount.**

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve Order 14 070(3)
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

- (4) Favorable action to continue to adopt the recommendation of the Mayor and the Board of Assessors, as outlined in a memorandum to the Town Council dated October 31, 2014 and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk, to decline the adoption of the “Residential Exemption”.**

Motion: by Councilor Powers to approve Order 14 070(4)
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1- Hume)

NEW BUSINESS

None

Refer to Committee on Ways & Means

- 14 071 Mayor: Appointment - Assistant Harbormaster or take up any action relative thereto
- 14 072 Mayor: Possible Town Land Sale or take up any action relative thereto

Motion by Councilor Powers to refer Order 14 071 & 14 072 to the Committee on Ways & Means.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to refer Order 14 071 & 14 072 to committee

Second: by Councilor Kokoros

Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Hume)

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:46p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Documents provided for Meeting

- November 5, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes
- 084 14 Clerk of the Council: 2015 Proposed Meeting Calendar
- 090 14 Council President: Update of Police Department/South Shore Plaza Holiday Plan
- 071 14 (A) Town Auditor Contract or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 071 14 (B) Outside Auditor Contract or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 14 067 Mayor: Free Cash and Retained Earnings Approval or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 14 069 Mayor: Supplemental Appropriations FY 15 or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 14 070 Board of Assessors: FY2015 Tax Levy or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 14 071 Mayor: Appointment - Assistant Harbormaster or take up any action relative thereto
- 14 072 Mayor: Possible Town Land Sale or take up any action relative thereto