

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

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

MINUTES

The meeting of the Town Council, was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 beginning at 7:33p.m.

Council President Powers was in the chair.

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

Also Present: Karen Shanley, Human Resource Director
James Arsenault, DPW Director
James M. Casey, Town Clerk
Debra Starr, Assistant Town Clerk
Liz Page, resident
Alexander Golob, artist

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COUNCIL RESPONSE

- 066 17 Council President: Artist Alexander Golob – Role of Art in the Public Realm (PowerPoint)
Artist Alexander Golob showed a power point presentation and discussed the role of art in the public realm and why it is important. Mr. Golob stated public art and art events anchor buildings and public spaces and provide them with an identity that builds community and attracts business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 15, 2017
Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Approve minutes of August 15, 2017
Second: by Councilor Bowes
Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

OLD BUSINESS

- 17 058 Mayor: Line Item Transfers to Fund Braintree Police Superior Officers' Association, MCOP Local 449 and Braintree Police Officers' Association, MCOP Local 356 Collective Bargaining Agreements or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 17 058

Motion: by Councilor Ryan

Second: by Councilor Bowes

Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0)

Council President Powers referred to Councilor O'Brien (Committee Chair) for Committee on Ways & Means recommendation.

Chairman O'Brien stated regarding this there was discussion previously and money was set aside to cover any retroactive pay in accordance with salary adjustments similar to other contracts within the Town 2%, 2 ½ % and 2 ½ %. The Town Auditor reviewed this and this is in compliance. The Committee on Ways & Means provides a favorable recommendation to the Full Council.

Councilor Kokoros read into the records a memo from Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan dated September 19, 2017. The memo read: I strongly encourage the council's funding endorsement of these agreements recognizing that the negotiations between the town and the unions have produced two fair and affordable pacts. The major benefits for the town is the first ever random drug testing requirements, the evidence officer now being classified as a specialist position with appointment approved by the Mayor, and achieving the goal of national accreditation standards of operation for the department. The value of this contract for our officers is a 3 year agreement that offers annual salary increases as well as incentivized compensation as we implement the accreditation processes and procedures. These CBA agreements are significant for the town and the unions in demonstrating our commitment to the importance of public safety as a priority value of our community.

Council President Powers asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 17 058?

Council President Powers stated thank you for the Police Officers for bargaining in good faith.

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Close Public Hearing for Order 17 058

Motion: by Councilor Ryan

Second: by Councilor Bowes

Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0)

Councilor Ryan read the following Motion:

That the Town vote to amend the wage and salary classification schedules, as most recently amended by appropriating the sum of \$344,000.00 for the purpose of funding a wage increase and other items as detailed in the Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) for the Braintree Police Superior Officers' Association, MCOP Local 449 and Braintree Police Officers' Association, MCOP Local 356, effective July 1, 2016, and for this purpose, the sum of \$344,000.00 be transferred from the FY 2017 Police Department Salary Reserve Article and further, 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 Ryan
Second: by Councilor Bowes
Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0)

- 17 060 Town Clerk: Call to the Regular Town Election November 7, 2017 or take up any action relative thereto

James M. Casey, Town Clerk stated 24 candidates submitted nomination papers. Over 3,000 signatures submitted and 92% were certified in under one business day. Mr. Casey gave a few key dates: Last day to withdraw is Thursday, October 5th at 5pm and at 7p that evening there will be drawing for ballot positions. On Wednesday, October 18 @8pm is the last day to register to vote in the November 7th Election.

Councilor Ryan read the following Motion:

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, THE TOWN OF BRAINTREE IS HEREBY REQUIRED TO NOTIFY AND WARN THE INHABITANTS OF SAID TOWN WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE REGULAR TOWN ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017 FROM 7:00 AM TO 8:00 PM, TO VOTE AT THE POLLING PLACES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PRECINCTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:

To cast their votes on the official ballot for: Three (3) Councilors-At-Large for a term of two years; Six (6) District Councilors for a term of two years; Three (3) School Committee members for a term of four years; Four (4) Trustees Thayer Public Library for a term of four years; Two (2) Municipal Lighting Board members for a term of four years; and Two (2) Housing Authority members for a term of four years.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan
Second: by Councilor Bowes
Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0)

Councilor Ryan left the meeting at 8:03pm

- 17 057 Mayor: Acceptance of Mass. General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 17C or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)

Motion by Councilor Bowes to Take from the TABLE and continue the Public Hearing for Order 17 057

Motion: by Councilor Bowes
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Ryan)

Council President Powers referred to Councilor Clifford (Committee Chair) for Committee on Ordinance & Rules recommendation. Chairman Clifford stated the committee brought a favorable motion to the full Council.

Councilor O'Brien stated the Collector Streets will remain 30mph. Does this list need to be vetted better. James Arsenault, DPW Director stated Collector Streets are roads that collect a lot of side streets to them. They are local roads tying into smaller roads and to get traffic through. The Collector List will not be 25mph. All streets except this list will be 25mph unless posted otherwise.

Councilor Mullaney stated he is against changing the speed limit. For the first time in ten years Braintree wanted to be like Randolph. I have been told this lower speed limit will cut down on accidents. I have asked questions and the Mayor's office did not get back to me.

Councilor Hume stated I do not sit on the Ordinance & Rules committee so I do not have all the information. I heard we are doing this to prevent accidents and per Councilor Mullaney we do not have an accident report. Is it correct we are going to do signs? How will the police enforce this?

James Arsenault, DPW Director stated the small road will be 25mph. The main roads will be normal speeds that they are now and will not change. We will have signs saying 25mph unless otherwise posted and the main roadways will have speeds posted. This is to reduce the speeds on the local roads due to a lot of concerns. The intension is to stop traffic flow in residential neighborhoods.

Councilor Clifford stated the police chief is 100% behind this. This is primarily thickly settled areas which means children and residential homes.

Councilor Kokoros stated this item was on the Traffic & Safety Committee agenda because of many complaints on neighborhood streets I've gotten. Are there streets that should not be 25 mph? I support lower on side streets but not main streets.

Councilor Owens stated the most district wide complaints are speeding and cut-through. It's more that current speed limits are not enforced. There needs to be a point person for items that go to TASC.

Councilor O'Brien stated I believe this is something residents want until they get pulled over driving over 25mph. We need further vetting on the list of Collector Roads.

Councilor Bowes stated I will support for the safety of the children and residential neighborhoods. This has been discussed with the police chief, mayor and at the Committee on Ordinance & Rules last week. Every officer has the ability to enforce speed limits at all times. BPD should start with written warnings where the speed limit drops to 25mph.

Motion by Councilor Clifford to TABLE Order 17 057 to the October 4, 2017 Town Council meeting

Motion: by Councilor Clifford

Second: by Councilor O'Brien

Vote: For (6), Against (2-Bowes, Kokoros), Absent (1-Ryan)

NEW BUSINESS

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

Refer to the Committee on Ways & Means

- 17 061 Councilor Mullaney: Request to Increase Mayor's Salary or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 062 Mayor: Supplemental Appropriation #1 or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 063 Mayor: Appointment – Commission on Disabilities – Caitlin Reilly or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 064 Mayor: Appointment – Commission on Disabilities – Meredith Lincoln or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Bowes
Second: by Councilor Kokoros
Vote: For (8), Against (0), Absent (1-Ryan)

Councilor Clifford read the following Formal Announcement:

“After 20 years of service to Braintree, from Town Meeting Member, to Board of Assessors and these last 10 years as your District 6 Town Councilor, I am stepping away at the end of my term for personal and professional reasons...”

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Documents provided for Meeting

- 17 057 Mayor: Acceptance of Mass. General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 17C or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 058 Mayor: Line Item Transfers to Fund Braintree Police Superior Officers’ Association, MCOP Local 449 and Braintree Police Officers’ Association, MCOP Local 356 Collective Bargaining Agreements or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 060 Town Clerk: Call to the Town Election November 7, 2017