

Charles B. Ryan
President
At Large

Sean E. Powers
At Large

Shannon L. Hume
At Large

Thomas W. Whalen
District 2

Thomas M. Bowes
District 3



CHARLES C. Kokoros
Vice President
District 1

Stephen C. O'Brien
District 4

David M. Ringius, Jr.
District 5

Timothy P. Carey
District 6

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

February 5, 2019 MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Ryan was in the chair.
Clerk of the Council, Susan Cimino conducted the roll call.

Present: Charles B. Ryan, President
Charles C. Kokoros, Vice President
Timothy P. Carey
Thomas M. Bowes
Shannon L. Hume
Sean E. Powers
David M. Ringius, Jr.
Thomas W. Whalen

Not Present: Stephen C. O'Brien

Also Present: James M. Casey, Town Clerk
Karen Shanley, Human Resource Director
Shawn McGoldrick, Town Auditor
Jane D'Auria, Town Clerk's office
Eric Cocca, Town Clerk's office
Linda Kopkind, resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of January 8, 2019

Motion: by Councilor Kokoros to Approve Minutes of January 8, 2019

Second: by Councilor Powers

Vote: For (8 –Bowes, Carey, Hume, Kokoros, Powers, Ringuius, Ryan, Whalen),
Against (0), Absent (1 - O'Brien), Abstain (0)

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COUNCIL RESPONSE

- 001 19 Councilor Powers: Parking - Braintree Square, South Braintree Square and the Landing or take up any action relative thereto

Councilor Powers stated a meeting was held at Bates Bar & Grill to discuss parking challenges. In attendance were Mayor Sullivan, Joe Reynolds, Chief Shastany, the new traffic engineer David Soares, and Weymouth Town Planner. Time limits of 3 hours for spaces are being worked out. It is being looked into for employees of businesses are given secure locations to park. Employees will be given a decal parking sticker. Braintree Square and South Braintree Square parking is being worked on as well. We all agree future of businesses in our squares is contingent on parking being available to folks. This is an issue I hear loud and clear from folks.

Councilor Bowes stated the RFP of the Landing Municipal Lot states no fewer than 35 spots shall be available to the public from 9am to 11:30pm with no charge to the parking patrons. The RFP dated January 21, 2015 under Conditions #2:

The Town will require that no fewer than thirty-five (35) parking spaces remain available in perpetuity for general use by the public and patrons of businesses in Braintree-Weymouth Landing daily from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 P.M., with no charge to the parking patrons, except with the express approval of the Town, acting by and through the Mayor. The new owner will be responsible for maintaining the general public parking spaces including, but not limited to, line-painting, lighting, signage, security, policing, maintenance, landscaping and snow removal.

Councilor Powers asked if we can get a report on the final conditions for Landing 53 in regards to parking.

Councilor Hume asked if the Mayor's office can please investigate the signage at the Landing 53 Municipal Lot. It was noted signage is up stating Resident Parking Only.

Councilor Ringius as if the Mayor's office can please investigate potholes at the South Braintree Square Municipal Parking Lot. It was noted they are significant.

Council President Ryan stated we should have an update on this issue at an upcoming Council meeting. He asked if there is any enforcement at the Landing apartments. Are there people who live there parking in public spots for long periods of time or days? Is there a problem with people parking and getting on the commuter rail? What type of enforcement is the town doing around there?

OLD BUSINESS

- 18 048 Council President: Reclassification Town Clerk and Clerk of the Council or take up any action relative thereto

Councilor Carey stated the Committee on Personnel Issues met earlier this evening and the vote was one in favor and one opposed.

Council President Ryan stated this is before us tonight because the Licensing Coordinator for the Town of Braintree retired. The Mayor's office and the Town Clerk's office discussed bringing these responsibilities into the Town Clerk's office. This started last summer. Three of the union positions were negotiated through the Human Resources Department and the union to bring the responsibilities and those people

accepted those jobs which were negotiated in good faith. The non-union positions were negotiated with the Town Auditors office. They looked at the two non-union positions. It was agreed that it was the right thing to do and have the work be with the Town Clerk's office.

James Casey, Town Clerk stated I ask you to support this reclassification. Some of the reasons behind this is specifically we will have 5 experienced individuals and always have back up. When the current individual was out this past year we had no back up. There is quite a bit of work involved.

Councilor Hume asked what this vote involved.

Council President Ryan stated this vote is the reclassification of what grades staff is now and what grades they will be along with their new job descriptions/duties. This is for union and non-union positions.

Motion read by Councilor Kokoros.

Motion: To approve the reclassifications and associated job descriptions of each of the positions within the Town Clerk's office as negotiated by the Unions and Human Resources including two AFSCME positions, Principal Clerk grade S7 step D to Administrative Clerk grade S12 step B and Registration Clerk from grade S7 step E to Administrative Clerk grade S12 step C, BPMA position Assistant Town Clerk from grade M8 step E to grade M12 step C, as per union contracts. The Non-BPMA position of Town Clerk from grade M18 step E to grade M21 step C and Non-BPMA position of Clerk of the Council from grade M8 step E to grade M10 step D, as per non-BPMA and all as presented in the Town Auditors report. All five reclassifications are retroactive to July 1, 2018.

Motion: by Councilor Kokoros

Second: by Councilor Powers

Vote: For (6 –Carey, Kokoros, Powers, Ringuius, Ryan, Whalen),
Against (2 - Bowes, Hume), Absent (1 - O'Brien), Abstain (0)

Councilor Hume stated we are in a unique position here where the Town Clerk and Clerk of the Council are the only town employees that report to us. There are many town departments that assume more responsibilities and do not get paid additional. Putting personalities aside, they do a great job, it's not that. I don't think it is fair that we do this as a Council – we cannot give this to any other department. Police, Fire, DPW, Schools all take on additional responsibilities at every level and don't get increases. I can't support this.

Councilor Ringius stated the previous Licensing Coordinator was a M8E making approximately \$68,000 not including benefits. Benefits would be approximately \$13,000 and 11% pension for the Town. I look at it that there is a significant savings to be realized. I do agree with Councilor Hume that others like the Police Chief or the Superintendent take on additional responsibilities. This is different. This is a totally new role that was never part of any previous duty. I feel this is a completely new subset of responsibilities.

Councilor Carey stated there is significant savings to the Town noted by the Town Auditors report and also Human Resources.

Councilor Kokoros stated the Licensing Coordinator job has become more and more difficult with hundreds of Licenses to be renewed each year. It is an entire process. Paperwork needs to be done. Now there will always be someone to take the paperwork and process it and get the work done. It is

important. This is a very significant role and it is a role that affects businesses. Having a team who is trained is excellent. Having the leader of that team as the one who chairs the licensing board it makes complete sense. I appreciate all the individuals who are willing to take this on. This job has the potential to grow in the future. I do support this.

Councilor Carey stated these individuals have been assuming these responsibilities since July 2018. They have been doing it all along.

Councilor Powers stated when he served on the School Committee they dealt with reclassifications all the time for staff members, so there is a process in place for other town employees particularly union employees who feel they are working out of grade or their job needs to be reclassified. It is done through the Union and Human Resources whereby the employees job description is reviewed and compared with job descriptions and grades. This situation is unique because the Clerk of the Council and the Town Clerk office fall within the Town Council. We are adding a new set of duties to these folk's job descriptions. This is a huge administrative component of the function of this town government. Every time a restaurant changes managers they need to file paperwork so they are in compliance. There is a large administrative function to this. Having an office with everyone cross trained would be beneficial to our community.

Councilor Bowes stated there was a process. The Committee on Personnel Issues met, voted and then reconsidered it. We had the Town Auditors look at it. On November 14, 2018 there was an email from the Town Clerk's office basically indicating the offer underestimates the complexity and volume of the added duties of the licensing responsibilities and as a group we respectfully request that the reclassification be withdrawn at this time. Nothing has changed since then. I do not know why we are here or why we are still harping on this. They said they didn't want it. Human Resources posted the position on November 15, 2018 and there were applicants for the position. Now we are just going to say go ahead? I don't see the savings as outlined by the clerk. I will unfortunately not be supporting this.

Council President Ryan stated there were a few bumps in the road as we moved this process forward. The Committee on Personnel Issues initially took a vote. They felt they acted too hastily and wanted to reconsider it. We got the Town Auditors involved to look at the grades and how appropriately they should classify them. The Town Auditor report was forwarded to the Town Clerk's office and they initially said they do not want to do the work. That is the email Councilor Bowes is talking about. After some time had gone by the Town Clerk's office had reconsidered. It was discussed with the Council President and through a text message. The Council President let everyone on the Personnel Committee know that this was being reconsidered. When the job did get posted for full time on November 15, 2018 but now it is not being filled and it will be a reclassification for the Town Clerk's office. Here we are tonight. It is properly before us. It is a lot of responsibility and it will be good to have it centrally located in our Town Clerk's office with back up folks knowing how to perform the duties when needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

Refer to the Committee of Ways & Means

- 19 002 Mayor: Appointment - Conservation Commission, Peter Williams or take up any action relative thereto
- 19 003 Mayor: Request to Approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Plan or take up any action relative thereto

- 19 004 Mayor: Request for Appropriation - Fiscal Year 2019 General Fund Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto
- 19 005 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2019 Enterprise Funds Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto
- 19 006 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget - Other Available Funds or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Kokoros to refer 19 002, 19 003, 19 004, 19 005, 19 006 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Powers

Vote: For (8 – Bowes, Carey, Hume, Kokoros, Powers, Ringuius, Ryan, Whalen),
Against (0), Absent (1 - O’Brien), Abstain (0)

RESOLUTION

• **002 19 Resolution: Compressor Station or take up any action relative thereto**

WHEREAS, Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC ("Algonquin") seeks to construct a new natural gas compressor station as part of its "Atlantic Bridge" natural-gas pipeline project within a mile radius of Braintree and with a pipeline that passes through Braintree; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") has approved the Air Quality Plan submitted by Algonquin; and

WHEREAS, I, Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan and the Braintree Town Council stand committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of our residents, as well as the residents of the South Shore; and

WHEREAS, the operation of a natural gas compressor station in this area will further increase the toxic pollutants in the area thereby furthering health and public safety risks to the residents of Braintree, as well as Hingham, Quincy and Weymouth, and to transient individuals passing through our towns.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town is committed to continuing its efforts to prevent the construction and operation of the gas compressor station through all legal means available and in the best interest of its residents, including the February 1, 2019, appeal filed with the DEP seeking to vacate the approval of the Air Quality Plan.

Motion: by Councilor Hume

Second: by Councilor Bowes

Vote: For (8 – Bowes, Carey, Hume, Kokoros, Powers, Ringuius, Ryan, Whalen),
Against (0), Absent (1 - O’Brien), Abstain (0)

This was signed by Mayor Sullivan and the Braintree Town Council.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:24p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Documents provided for Meeting

- Minutes January 8, 2019
- 18 048 Council President: Reclassification Town Clerk and Clerk of the Council
- 001 19 Councilor Powers: Parking - Braintree Square, South Braintree Square and the Landing or take up any action relative thereto
- 002 19 Resolution: Compressor Station or take up any action relative thereto