

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

### MARCH 7, 2017

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council, was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on March 7, 2017 beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Powers was in the chair.

Present: Sean Powers, President  
Charles Ryan, Vice President  
Thomas Bowes  
Shannon Hume  
Charles Kokoros arrived @8:20pm  
John Mullaney  
Stephen C. O'Brien  
Michael Owens

Not Present: Paul Dan Clifford

Also Present: Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor  
Ed Spellman, Finance Director  
Michael Nelligan, Powers & Sullivan  
Liz Page, NBCA  
Linda Kopkind, NBCA

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 7, 2017

Motion made by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of February 7, 2017

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

- February 13, 2017

Motion made by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of February 13, 2017

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

- February 28, 2017

Motion made by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of February 28, 2017

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 018 17 Council President: Discussion/Approval of letter to be sent to the Lottery to remain in Braintree  
Council President Powers stated the Lottery sent out Request for Proposals (RFP) to look into relocating its location from the current location in Braintree. Council President Powers read a proposed letter to be sent to the Lottery from the Town Council. BELD does have incentives for large power users to come into Town.

Councilor Owens stated the Lottery has cited they wish to move closer to Boston to recruit more talent in technology. This should be a concern for all of us. Braintree relies too heavily on retail. We need more technology and bio-tech companies.

Councilor O'Brien stated the Lottery Headquarters is looking to move but there will be some parts remaining. Braintree is not a technology hub. I rise in support of this letter.

Motion made by Councilor Ryan to send a letter to the Lottery to remain in Braintree

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN BOARDS**

- 011 17 Council President: Discussion South Shore Plaza Incident

The Committee on Public Safety met with the Chief of Police. Chairman Kokoros stated we could not get into a lot of detail with the ongoing investigation. We will meet again on 3/15/17. Increased cameras were discussed. Police response was incredible. We as a committee are working on better solutions at the South Shore Plaza during incidents. We hope to get South Shore Plaza management at a future meeting. We are working on that.

Councilor Mullaney stated one bad incident isn't a problem with all the activity at the South Shore Plaza. We need the South Shore Plaza to succeed. It brings in about \$9 million in revenue per year. Councilor Mullaney asked if we can receive a monthly report from the South Shore Plaza on Police Activity. The Plaza should pay for more police to protect this great asset.

Joseph Reynolds, Chief of Staff stated we have had constructive conversations with the Plaza. The investigation is still ongoing. The number of police officers on duty that evening would not have mattered. Joe stated since 3/1/17 there has been enhanced communication capabilities at the South Shore Plaza to each store. The South Shore Plaza is open to the idea to have police train employees for a situation like this occurring.

Council President Powers stated we are committed that something good happens from this awful situation. Our police officers acted professional and swift in this situation.

- 017 17 Powers & Sullivan FY2016 Audit Reports

Michael Nelligan, Powers & Sullivan Auditor stated they issued 3 reports:

FY2016 Audit Report – Management Letter

FY2016 Audit Report – Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

FY2016 Audit Report – Federal Awards Program (SEFA)

Michael Nelligan stated the Audit Report is clean on all financial statements. There were no significant issues. Mr. Nelligan stated we would sit with Management, we would ask for information from them and they were all cooperative.

Next year OPEB will be on the books. The Town has started with \$6 million set aside. There is no mandate to fund that at this time but it is a good start for Braintree. The Pension is funded 64%. The Debt Service Ratio is 2.9%. The rating says borrowing is good between 5-10%. You can do more borrowing if you want to. You have plenty if you need to borrow additional funds.

Michael Nelligan suggested streamlining turnovers to 1 per day. He was in Town for 5 days in a row and there were 34 turnovers that he witnessed.

Councilor Mullaney asked Michael Nelligan, Powers & Sullivan Auditors could look at the Evidence Room at the Braintree Police Station.

Mr. Nelligan replied yes we could. Those assets are typically not on the books. We cannot be prohibited to go but can be controlled until the cases involved are all settled. I also recommend evidence room workers be rotated every 6 months. Mr. Nelligan also stated documentation and testing of procedures should be performed through Department Heads and Internal Auditor.

Council President Powers thanked Michael Nelligan of Powers & Sullivan for working on this along with Ed Spellman and the Mayor's office.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **17 011 Mayor: Appointment Planning Board – James N. Downey or take up any action relative thereto**

Councilor O'Brien, Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means stated the members met this evening and recommended favorable action to the full Council on Order 17 011. Councilor O'Brien asked Mr. Downey that every resident be treated with dignity when they come to the podium at a Planning Board meeting.

Motion by read by Councilor Ryan:

TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES N. DOWNEY TO THE BRAINTREE PLANNING BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 3-3 OF THE TOWN CHARTER

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan to Approve Order 17 011

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- None

- **17 013 Mayor: Appointment Zoning Board of Appeals – Steven Sciascia or take up any action relative thereto**

SAME NIGHT ACTION was requested for Council Order 17 013. There was no objection from any Council member.

Councilor O'Brien stated thank you Mr. Sciascia for stepping up. This is a very impressive resume. I vote for favorable recommendation on this.

Councilor Ryan read the following Motion:

TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN SCIASCIA TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 3-3 OF THE TOWN CHARTER

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan to Approve Order 17 013

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

- **17 014 Mayor: Appointment Recreation Advisory Commission – Joseph Hubbard or take up any action relative thereto**

SAME NIGHT ACTION was requested for Council Order 17 014. There was no objection from any Council member.

Councilor Ryan stated Joseph Hubbard is an outstanding individual.

Councilor O'Brien stated he has no problem with Same Night Action since reviewing Mr. Hubbard's past resume.

Councilor Ryan read the following Motion:

TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH HUBBARD TO RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 3-3 OF THE TOWN CHARTER

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan to Approve Order 17 014

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

Councilor Ryan referred the following to committees:

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

- **17 010 Mayor: Authorization of Five Year Lease Agreement – Golf Course or take up any action relative thereto**

**Motion:** by Councilor Ryan t

**Second:** by Councilor Bowes

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

**Topics the Chair does not reasonably anticipate will be discussed**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next Council Meeting is - **TUESDAY, March 21, 2017@ 7:30pm**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino  
Clerk of the Council

## **Documents provided for Meeting**

- 017 17 Powers & Sullivan FY2016 Audit Reports
- 018 17 Council President: Discussion/Approval of letter to be sent to the Lottery to remain in Braintree
- 17 010 Mayor: Authorization of Five Year Lease Agreement – Golf Course or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 011 Mayor: Appointment Planning Board – James N. Downey or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 013 Mayor: Appointment Zoning Board of Appeals – Steven Sciascia or take up any action relative thereto
- 17 014 Mayor: Appointment Recreation Advisory Commission – Joseph Hubbard or take up any action relative thereto