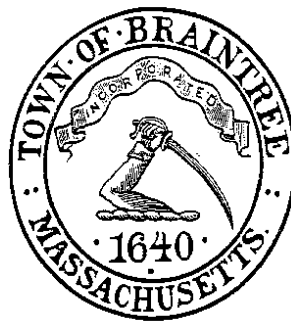


Meredith Boericke
President
District 5



Shannon L. Hume
At Large

David M. Ringius, Jr.
At Large

Julia C. Flaherty
District 1

Charles B. Ryan
Vice President
At Large

Joseph Reynolds
District 2

Elizabeth Maglio
District 3

Stephen C. O'Brien
District 4

Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.
District 6

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, JULY 18, 2023

MINUTES

A Meeting of the Town Council, was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Boericke was in the chair.

President Boericke asked for a moment of silence for our first responders and all those serving our military home and abroad.

Clerk of the Council, Susan M. Cimino conducted the roll call.

Present: Meredith Boericke, President
Charles Ryan, Vice President
Julia Flaherty
Shannon Hume
Elizabeth Maglio
Joseph Reynolds
David M. Ringius, Jr.

Not Present: Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.
Stephen C. O'Brien

Others: Charles C. Kokoros, Mayor
Margaret Laforest, Chief of Staff
James Arsenault, DPW Director
Vincent Fountaine, Veteran Services Director
Wes Rae, BCAM Director
Braintree Pickleball
Susan Chin, resident
6th Grade Girls Travel Basketball State Champions

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 045 23 Councilor Ringius: Recognition Certificates – 6th Grade Girls Travel Basketball State Champions

0 Abby Sweeney
1 Anna Savage
7 Megan Caranog
8 Tamara Mede
9 Alyssa Nellany
10 Chloe Moschella
11 Maddie Larivee
12 Millie Aveni
20 Siena DiTocco
23 Lola Wood
24 Avery Franzosa

Coaches:

Marianne Sweeney
Pacharo Mede

Councilor Hume announced there is a special Party-In-The-Park at Lincoln Park on July 19, 2023 at 6pm. This will be dedicated to Nelson Chin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 4, 2023

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Minutes of April 4, 2023

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (2- Mackin, O’Brien), Abstain (0)

COMMUNICATIONS

- **046 23 Council President: BCAM TV/Community Media Programming Update**

Wes Rea, Executive Director – Braintree Community Access & Media.

Public Access television is funded primarily through cable television subscriptions. It is mandated by federal law the cable act of 1984. Cable companies have to give back up to 5% of gross revenue they make in that town. That money has to be spent for community television. With the advent of streaming people have been leaving their cable and getting entertainment providers through streaming services. Streaming services are not under the same mandate as cable companies are. So funding for studios like ours have been decreasing. If something doesn't change our industry could disappear. The Bill we are talking about is an act

to modernize funding for community media programming. It will give the state the authority to access 5% of gross revenues on all streaming companies that do business in the state of Massachusetts.

That money would be divided three ways. 20% would go to the state. 40% would go to the municipalities. The remaining 40% would go to studios like BCAMTV. If it goes into effect it would happen next year. I am here to ask for your support.

Although the committee that is hearing H.74 and S.34, An act to modernize funding for community media programming, is hearing testimony on July 13, 2023, they will accept written correspondence up until **July 20th at 5pm.**

A sample letter and details on where to send it are in your document packets.

OLD BUSINESS

• 036 23 Council President: Request for Town Council to Sponsor Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Tree Ordinance or take up any action relative thereto

President Boericke explained this is our 3rd and final component to our Tree Protection Ordinance. This is to simply be the sponsor of a zoning amendment.

According to MGL Chapter 40A Section 5 a “City Council” can be a sponsor of a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment.

This item was first on the June 20, 2023 Town Council agenda under New Business as a discussion for Braintree Town Council to be **the sponsor** of this request.

Motion was read by Councilor Ryan.

MOTION: to approve that the Braintree Town Council be **the sponsor to submit** a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment for the Proposed Tree Ordinance on behalf of the Braintree Town Council.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve item 036 23

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (2- Mackin, O’Brien), Abstain (0)

• 23 046 Mayor: Inter-Municipal Veterans’ Services Agreement or take up any action relative thereto

President Boericke referred to Councilor Flaherty, Vice-Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation on Order 23 046.

Councilor Flaherty, Vice-Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means met earlier this evening and voted 2 in favor for a favorable recommendation to the full Council on Order 23 046.

Councilor Joe Reynolds recused himself from this discussion/vote due to conflict of interest.

Vincent Fountaine, Veteran Services Director stated we will be helping our neighboring towns with this. We will also be able to add a part-time person to help our veterans.

Councilor Ryan read the Motion:

MOTION: Authorizing Mayor Charles C. Kokoros to submit a letter to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans' Services for consideration of an Intermunicipal Agreement for Veterans Services.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 046

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (6 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (2- Mackin, O’Brien), Abstain (1 - Reynolds)

- **23 047 Mayor: FY23 Supplemental Appropriation #3 or take up any action relative thereto (WITHDRAWN)**

THIS MEASURE HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE MAYOR’S OFFICE – NO FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME

NEW BUSINESS

Refer to the Committee of Ways & Means

- 23 048 Mayor: Authorization to Accept a Donation—Braintree Pickleball Players or take up any action relative thereto (*Same Night Action Request for Order 23 048*)

President Boericke asked does any member object to SAME NIGHT ACTION on Order 23 048?
Hearing no objection...

Charles C. Kokoros, Mayor stated this is a generous donation from the Braintree Pickleball to create a pathway in which we will add shade trees to later. This is a great positive community sport. I am happy to support this for same night action. It is a great social and healthy sport. I rise in support. I thank these folks for their generosity.

Janice Walsh stated we have been playing pickleball since 2014. We had a small group of 15 and grown to 500 members. We have always been appreciative of the support of this wonderful town. Our mission is to give back to our community in any way we can. At this time the East side of the Pickleball Courts is in need of a safe, level, ADA compliant walkway. The Braintree Pickleball Players would like to donate the cost of the construction of the walkway.

Councilor Ryan read the Motion:

MOTION: That the Town of Braintree be and hereby is authorized, in accordance with Section 53A of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws to accept the following gift upon the conditions attached and herein set forth:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>GIFT</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
Braintree Pickleball	up to \$10,000	Pickleball Walkway

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 048

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (2- Mackin, O’Brien), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee of Ways & Means

- **23 049 Mayor: CPC Appropriation - Smelt Brook Restoration Study, 2023 Addendum, FY23 CPA Application or take up any action relative thereto**

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 049 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (2- Mackin, O’Brien), Abstain (0)

- **23 050 Council President: Re-appointment Outside Auditor or take up any action relative thereto**

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 050 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (2- Mackin, O’Brien), Abstain (0)

RESOLUTION

- **047 23 Council President: A Resolution in Support of An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming**

A Resolution in Support of An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming

Whereas: Accessing government meetings is essential to our democracy, and local media outlets like BCAM TV are foundational to providing such a service through cable and live stream, thereby expanding civic engagement, and improving government transparency.

Whereas: The funding for community media stations is diminishing as cable subscriptions and the local revenue derived therefrom declines.

Whereas: Streaming services have become more prevalent, but are not similarly required to pay for the use of the public infrastructure - utility poles, conduits, and wires – on which they rely to sell their services and derive a profit.

And Whereas: The Massachusetts legislature's 193rd session is considering a bill to hold streaming providers responsible for paying their fair share for the use of public infrastructure, thereby ensuring that local media stations like BCAM are funded, and can continue to provide the foundational democratic right to information.

Be it therefore resolved: that the members of the Braintree Town Council do wholly support and vigorously urge our State's delegation to hasten the passage of An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to accept the Resolution as presented

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (2- Mackin, O'Brien), Abstain (0)

Topics the Chair does not reasonably anticipate will be discussed

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next Council Meeting is scheduled on: [Tuesday, August 1, 2023@7:30PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Recording of meeting found at: <https://www.youtube.com/bcamtv>