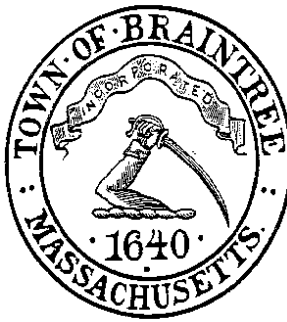


Charles B. Ryan
President
At Large

Shannon L. Hume
At Large

Julia C. Flaherty
District 1

Joseph Reynolds
District 2



David M. Ringius, Jr.
Vice President
At Large

Elizabeth Maglio
District 3

Annmary Quilty
District 4

Meredith Boericke
District 5

Peter Morin
District 6

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, DECEMBER 2, 2025

MINUTES

A Meeting of the Town Council was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Ryan was in the chair.

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

Others: Michael Esmond, Finance Director
Paul Sullivan, Deputy Assessor
Bob Cusack, Chairman BOA
Susan O'Brien, member BOA
Robert Connelly, member BOA
Christopher Griffin, Asst Director Parks & Recreation
Emma Hume, Parks & Recreation
Mary Mulroney, National Grid Representative
Dave Hughes, VP Marr Company
Chris Hughes, Marr Company
Meghan Bruckman, Civil Engineer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• 040 25 Council President: Retirement - Councilor Hume

President Ryan stated Councilor Hume it's a very special evening because tonight will be the last meeting that you'll be attending.

Councilor-at-Large 2014-2026

First Woman Council President 2020-2022

Councilor Hume began by saying Thank you Mr. President.

What a journey it's been these last 18 years. Six years on the school committee, 12 years on the town council, as well as a member of several other town committees, some of which include the school building committee, the charter committee, the Braintree Partnership on Substance Use, all of which have been very important and near and dear to my heart.

I find myself reflecting on a journey that's lasted 18 years, nearly two decades, of serving the community that I love. When I first stepped into public office, I never imagined the impact this path would have on me. I especially never imagined one day to serve as the first female Town Councilor, and later as the first female Council President. It's an honor. Now today, almost half of our council is women, who comprised of strong, amazing and intelligent women. Thank you for your service.

It's been an honor to represent you, the residents of Braintree, together, celebrating major accomplishments, whether difficult moments, and navigating the changes that have strengthened our community. We've improved services, supported our local businesses, small businesses are the key to our community, so be sure to frequent them, especially during the holidays. We've invested in our schools, built two new schools, happy to be a part of that.

We've improved public safety, our roadways, our parks, and our neighborhoods. All of which have made our town a place where people feel safe, welcome, and proud to call home. I began my town service on the school committee with newly elected Mayor Sullivan, who I learned so much from and am grateful for his knowledge and friendship. I've been fortunate, fortunate to serve with three mayors, Mayor Sullivan, Mayor Kokoros, and Mayor Joyce. Mayor Joyce was the first female mayor. I want to thank her for her leadership, making the tough decisions, and continually making Braintree a better place to live. I've served as three school superintendents, who I've learned so much from, Dr. Peter Kurzberg, Dr. Maureen Murray, and Dr. Frank Hackett. I've served on the school committee with many members, and I'm grateful for all of them especially to Lisa Fiske-Heger, who I'm proud to call my friend and my fellow Town Councilor Dave Ringius. To my fellow Town Councilors and past councilors who I've served with, we haven't always agreed, we've always shared a commitment to doing what's best for our town.

I'm grateful for every decision and debate, every late night evening, though more of those than early, and working together to make positive change and improvement in our town. Councilor Ryan, Councilor Ringius, we've served for 18 years together. I'm proud of that service and value our friendship. To Representative Cusack, thank you for your tireless efforts to legislate and provide funding to ensure Braintree is a better community to live in and I value our friendship as well.

To all my fellow elected officials, both past and present, thank you for your partnership and your willingness to serve the residents of Braintree. And to Sue, thank you for your tireless efforts over the years to keep the council organized, prepared, and informed. You were invaluable to me when I served as the Town Council President. You're the glue that keeps us together, and I'm grateful for you.

To our town employees, some are here tonight. Thank you for your dedication, your professionalism, your hard work, all of which keeps the town running on a daily basis, a lot of which goes unnoticed and residents don't see, but we notice it here and we appreciate all the hard work.

To the residents, thank you for trusting me, thank you for your support, your challenges, your ideas, and even your criticism. I never took it for granted my role on the Town Council to represent and advocate for all the residents of Braintree.

I'm stepping away from an elected position, which was not an easy decision for me. It is very bittersweet. However, I look forward to the two new councilors-elect, Ryan Sterling and Jimmy Daiute, taking office in January. I'm excited and confident they will bring new ideas and conversation to continue to make Braintree the best town it can be. And for BCAM: Bill Needham, Gerry Commack and Wes Rea thank you for always being ready and available to bring our meetings to our residents. You are an integral part of the success of town government.

To all my friends who have supported me over the years who have been there, I value and appreciate our friendship. And to my children who are here tonight, Connor, Emma and Noel and like my other son, Daryl, as well. They were in preschool and elementary school when I started on the school committee, so they've grown up these last 18 years while I was in office. I know it wasn't always easy on them, especially when they were teenagers and someone said, Hey, I know your mom! Or when someone was saying hi to them, and they had no idea who was saying hi to them, and they'd come home and say, somebody said hi to me. I said, well, who was that? I have no idea. I'd say, well, where were they? Explain what they look like. So I didn't always figure out who they were. And they didn't always like when I wouldn't let them go places or do things because I was the rule follower.

I didn't say it enough to you all, but thank you for always understanding when I had to go to a meeting or an event. Thank you for helping me with the many campaigns, fundraisers, sign-holding, walking in the Fourth of July parade, handing out candy, even when you didn't want to, and I know you had something better to do. Thank you for always having my back and you know I love you more than anything.

18 years is a long time, but it's gone quickly. I'm proud of what we have accomplished, grateful for the trust you've placed in me, and deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve. Thank you for allowing me to serve the Town of Braintree. It's truly been an honor.

All Councilors thanked Councilor Shannon Hume for her service and pioneering for women in this role as the first woman Town Council member and the first woman Town Council President.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **25 062** Mayor: Tax Rate Classifications or take up any action relative thereto (*Public Hearing*)

Council President Ryan asked for a Motion to Open the Public Hearing on Order 25 062

Motion by Councilor Ringius to Open Public Hearing for Order 25 062

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Open the Public Hearing for Order 25 062

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Council President Ryan asked for a recommendation from Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means.

Chairwoman Boericke stated the Committee of Ways & Means met on November 18th along with our Board of Assessors and voted for a unanimous favorable recommendation to the full Council on Order 25 062.

Council President Ryan asked if anyone from the mayor's staff would like to speak on this.

Michael Esmond, Director of Municipal Finance stated I will be referring to two documents both of which will be made available on the Town of Braintree's website. What we're here discussing tonight as the tax rate classification hearing is we're complying essentially with a section of the Mass General Laws that requires municipalities essentially to set the balance between residential and commercial class tax as far as the annual tax burden that each will share. Braintree has annually elected to shift a portion of the residential allocations to commercial side. And that's really the purpose. One of the purposes of this hearing is to allow for the council to review that, and to allow that if that is the choice.

Slide 3, this gives a very quick calendar of the major highlights of steps that are taken leading up to now, going back all the way to the budget. The council adopts in May, to where we are really here, in December tax classification hearing. A number of steps happen in between that, as far as what's required primarily for the board of assessors, and for the assessor's office.

Slide 4, historical budgeted numbers as well as what the current budget is for the tax levy for fiscal 26. In fiscal 26 back in April when the mayor filed for 26 budget proposal we envisioned total tax levy of about \$127.5 million dollars. We're projecting that number to be close to \$127.8 million that's 3.4 growth from the prior year. The main difference between what was budgeted and what is currently projected was that we had a new growth number that was roughly \$328,000 above our estimate.

Slide 5, shows the valuations over the two fiscal years 25 and 26. So the total value of taxable property in the Town of Braintree in fiscal 26 right now is \$10.48 billion, which is just under a 3% increase from the prior year. The residential classification represents \$8.5 of that \$10.5 billion of the substantial portion of that. And that growth was about 3%, which compares to the prior year where we saw a growth of 5%.

So 3% is certainly a meaningful growth rate, but not as much as the prior year. CIP, so that's commercial, industrial, and personal property grew at just under 2%. So combined, we're seeing total growth across all classifications of just about 3%, given the heavy weighting of residential. This would be what I would consider to be a pretty typical year. We see a pretty normal modest growth rate in line with what I think you'd be expecting.

The most important thing to note here is the residential growth rate being higher than the commercial, industrial, and personal property rate. We do see a continuing trend, which is shared by most communities in the Commonwealth, where the residential valuation does grow at a faster pace than the commercial rate.

Slide 6, really kind of the main thrust of tonight's discussion is the residential factor shift, which is visualized here at this table.

What we are authorized by Mass General Law is to shift by a factor of 1.75 the valuation, or essentially the percent valuation, allocated to each of the major classifications. So by shifting, you're essentially increasing the commercial classification tax burden, reducing the residential.

We've elected to adopt the 1.75 to 175 percent factor, as I said, really since the 80s. That would result in fiscal 26 and a 17% reduction, or a 14% point reduction in the tax burden.

I think an important thing to note, this was something we discussed at Ways and Means, the benefit of this shift that we've historically have adopted in fiscal 26 would be to represent about \$1,545 in savings to the average single family household, by virtue of the average house taxable valuation versus if we had not adopted this. So it's a meaningful amount of annual savings that the residential households experience by adopting this. Probably one of the key considerations in bringing this motion to the council tonight. And those savings are very typical. The new growth slide I provided shows where I mentioned previously that the new growth, is valued at about \$328,000 more than what the budget had assumed.

That represents, on a positive note, the second year, as we know here, since fiscal 2020, where new growth did not decline. So we are hopefully on a trend upward where we're seeing continuing to grow and also to become a meaningful part of our annual revenue base, particularly since, as we know, Prop, 2.5 bounds the increases that are available for the purposes of budgeting every year to 2.5% on a town-wide basis.

These amounts have been certified by the Department of Revenue and hopefully show what we believe is encouraging trends in new growth here in the town and really capture a lot of smaller pieces of new growth with a couple of large items, but we will continue to work to present these each year. Our projection and what goes into them, in the mayor's budget and during the hearings at Ways and Means and hopefully continue to capture the potential we're looking at for new growth in the future.

Probably the last thing I'll just say, just for the purposes of the importance of new growth, it's important because it's a recurring revenue that adds to our base. And again, as I said, it's the critical piece that isn't bound by the growth of 2 ½.

Now to the commercial tax exemption, but I'll be happy to answer any questions on the residential factor. We do also have another motion that's recommended, which is to adopt, as we have historically in the Town of Braintree, the small business commercial exemption, which for small businesses that are valued at less than a million dollars, less than 10 employees, the first 10% of the valuation is essentially made exempt, which provides across a forecasted 86 businesses, it will provide about \$116,000 worth of tax savings for those businesses in fiscal 26.

This is an important tool that's available for a Town like Braintree and historically we've adapted this as well. As we noted in here, the impact of that change is to increase the commercial tax rate by about six cents, so six pennies, as a result of this. So the offsetting cost is not too substantial to provide this tax exemption to these critical small businesses that are able to.

Slide 9. This is just provided as an illustration of the impact, in fiscal 26 from the tax rate changes we discussed and the impact of the budget on a single-family home basis. So in fiscal 26, the average single-family household will see total tax payments of, an estimated \$7,308, which is roughly \$280 increase from the prior year. We always highlight this group because, as we know, it represents a substantial 63% of the taxable valuation across the town and is 72% of all taxable units.

Councilor Reynolds stated there's some really good value here and it's a good story. We've been through some tough years. What this reflects in my mind is this marks the second year and we always want to have this consistent funding. We all know our expenses grow. There's growth in our expenses. It's rare to see

your expenses decline or at least not rise to a percentage level of new expenses that was less than the previous year. It's like death and taxes.

I just point this out for the folks of Braintree to understand that we have a really tough balancing act. It's not just the Town of Braintree, it's every community. It's very, very few exceptions that have such sustainable growth year over year due to their industry perhaps or the type of location that they are in.

We have a need of businesses. I hear that a lot. But I just want to take a moment to say that housing is important. I would just emphasize back to our community, that this is a balancing act. We have to do it incremental, sustainable and consistent manners to do that. The revenue figures, the year over the year numbers, a better story for us to go forward.

Councilor Boericke stated Massachusetts laws restrict the way that towns can raise money to pay for services, the services that we all count on. Property taxes are the overwhelming way that Braintree and all the other communities in Massachusetts can raise money to support the services we count on and, frankly, we deserve. And our property taxes make up more than 70% of the town's budget, as Councilor Reynolds alluded to. So what the council is voting on tonight is whether or not to provide, tax relief to Braintree homeowners and small businesses by shifting a greater proportion of the tax burden onto our large commercial and industrial properties. I will be voting in favor of this tax shift. Not only to make sure that Braintree homeowners are left with more money in their pockets next year and it's going to be a cost avoidance of about \$1,500 for homeowners in Braintree but also because I think you know our large industry or commercial businesses create a greater need for services such as roadway maintenance, intersection upgrades, increase traffic enforcement and all the things that councilors and all of us hear about all the time.

I know that the cost of living is on many people's minds and that's why our property taxes it bears taking time to think about and keeping Braintree affordable is definitely on my mind.

It's really important to remember that Massachusetts also restricts even the amount of property tax rate, that can be raised by communities due to Proposition 2 1/2, which is passed in 1980. And there is no adjustment for inflation that's allowed by Proposition 2 1/2. So we are really bound by this cap.

However, when new or redeveloped property is completed, more taxable property is introduced to the town, which brings in new revenue. Redevelopments also bring new residents. They bring new workers, who in turn spend more money in our restaurants and hotels, which generates additional revenue. So as we look ahead, encouraging new development and redevelopment of all kinds is one of the key ways that we can maintain a low tax rate for our residents, and, importantly, help us to avoid the need for additional Proposition 2 1/2 overrides and continue to fund the services that our residents count on and that the town provides.

Councilor Morin stated I am going to vote in favor of the shift, and I think it is an important asset for Braintree homeowners to be able to have their property taxes reduced by a shift onto commercial properties. I want the public to just, I want to be clear to the public that what we are voting on tonight is the product of a lot of work by a lot of different people to get to the point where we can adopt, a tax classification and tax rate. It starts with the assessors making sure that the valuation of property is done accurately and providing the data to the Department of Revenue Division of Local Services for them to check to make sure that we're valuing property correctly so that we can raise the revenue to pay for our budget, for the current fiscal year that we passed back in May. It also requires us to close the books on prior fiscal year, make sure that they're in order, make sure that our retained earnings are certified by the state, and that is not a simple task. There's a lot of questions and answers and sharing of information from numerous departments. Director Esmond is, you know, herding cats, you know, performing that function, and meeting

the inquiries of the Department of Revenue. It is also, you know, the Department of Revenue looks at our budget to make sure that it is affordable based on the evaluation of property that we're doing. I think the shift is important, but it is important for us to realize that the ability to shift residential tax burdens onto commercial tax burdens is dependent on continued growth of our commercial properties.

What we've seen the last five years or more is residential values growing faster than commercial values. You know, last year it was probably 5% of the residential value increase versus a 1% or a flat rate in commercial values. That's a factor of the residential market being very hot and the commercial property market being somewhat stagnant as it's in transition post-COVID. We're starting to see a more modest growth on the residential side and a bit of an uptick on the commercial side. That is good news for us because it will allow us to continue to shift and have the shift be meaningful and provide meaningful relief to residential taxpayers.

So, for the folks that are seeing us as a council acting on this tonight, there were hours of the Ways and Means Committee scrutiny on this. There's been a lot of work inter-departmentally before it was even presented. And they're had to be hoops gone through with the state in order to get us where we are tonight. This is not just one night of work, this is the product of weeks of work, and I commend the finance director, the board of assessors, and the other department heads that were involved in getting us to this point.

Councilor Quilty stated in a time where people are food insecure, it makes me so happy that we are able to shift some of the tax burden from our residents to some of the companies in the town.

President Ryan stated I will absolutely be supporting this. I've voted on this for the last 20 years. To do the shift, I think it's the right thing to do to save residential tax payers this money. As residents of Braintree the commercial property in this town can have a big impact as you try to drive around town during the Christmas season, you go near the plaza or you go near different parts of town, traffic can be horrendous. We're very impacted by the commercial property in this town. It is appropriate we do this shift.

Council President Ryan asked if anyone from the general public would like to speak on Order 25 062.
Hearing none.

Council President Ryan asked for a Motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing for Order 25 062

Motion by Councilor Ringius to CLOSE the Public Hearing for Order 25 062

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to CLOSE the Public Hearing for Order 25 062

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Quilty, Maglio, Morin, Ringius, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Council President Ryan asked for the Motions for Order 25 062:

Councilor Ringius read the following Motions 1-4:

Motion #1: To Apply the Tax Rate Classification Shift

MOTION: Be it ordained that the Town of Braintree 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 for Fiscal Year 2026.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 25 062 (1)

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Quilty, Maglio, Morin, Ringius, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motion #2: Small Business Exemption

MOTION: To approve the “Small Business Exemption” as recommended by the Mayor and the Board of Assessors in a memorandum to the Town Council dated November 13, 2025, and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk for Fiscal Year 2026.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 25 062 (2)

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Quilty, Maglio, Morin, Ringius, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motion #3: The Open Space Discount

MOTION: To continue to adopt the recommendation of the Mayor and the Board of Assessors, as outlined in a memorandum to the Town Council dated November 13, 2025, and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk to decline the adoption of the Open Space discount for Fiscal Year 2026.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 25 062 (3)

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Quilty, Maglio, Morin, Ringius, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motion #4: The Residential Exemption

MOTION: To continue to adopt the recommendation of the Mayor and the Board of Assessors, as outlined in a memorandum to the Town Council dated November 13, 2025, and as filed with the Office of the Town Clerk to decline the adoption of the Residential Exemption for Fiscal Year 2026.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 25 062 (4)

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Quilty, Maglio, Morin, Ringius, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

- **25 065** Mayor: Request for Appropriation - Braintree Cannon Wheel Replacement – CPA Application or take up any action relative thereto (*Public Hearing to be Continued to 1/20/26*)

Council President Ryan asked for a Motion to Open the Public Hearing on Order 25 065

Motion by Councilor Ringius to Open Public Hearing for Order 25 065

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Open the Public Hearing for Order 25 065

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Council President Ryan explained this is still in committee and therefore at this time we will continue the public hearing on Order 25 065 to January 20, 2026 at 7:30pm.

Council President Ryan asked for a Motion to CONTINUE the Public Hearing for Order 25 065 to January 20, 2026 at 7:30pm

Motion by Councilor Ringius to CONTINUE the Public Hearing for Order 25 065 to January 20, 2026 at 7:30pm

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to CONTINUE the Public Hearing for Order 25 065 to January 20, 2026 at 7:30pm

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Quilty, Maglio, Morin, Ringius, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

- **25 063** Marr Scaffolding Company Petition: Request to Perform Work in Commerce Drive – 201 Commerce Drive/ 600 Grove Street or take up any action relative thereto

Council President Ryan asked for a recommendation from, Councilor Flaherty, Chairwoman of the Committee on the Department of Public Works.

Chairwoman Flaherty stated the Committee on the Department of Public Works-met this evening and sends this to the full Council with a unanimous favorable recommendation on Order 25 063.

Council President Ryan asked does anyone wish to speak on this?

Council President Ryan asked is there a Motion on Order 25 063?

Motion read by Councilor Ringius:

MOTION: To grant Marr Scaffolding Company the request to perform work in Commerce Drive – 201 Commerce Drive/600 Grove Street with staff recommendations:

BELD: BELD has no conflicts with this location.

DPW: The DPW has reviewed the subject petition, plans, and accompanying narrative to excavate portions of Commerce Drive. The work is being proposed as part of a redevelopment project for the Marr Scaffolding site located at 201 Commerce Drive. Commerce Drive is subject to the excavation moratorium, having been last resurfaced in 2021. The DPW recommends that if the petition is approved, it contains the following conditions:

- Temporary patches shall be placed immediately following the work. Street excavations should be saw-cut, backfilled, and compacted in 8-inch lifts, paved to match existing asphalt depth (with a minimum depth of four inches) in two-inch lifts to match the existing street grade.
- Depending on the timing of the work, the temporary patches should remain in place throughout one winter, or for a minimum of 90 days.
- Curb-to-curb permanent patching should be required for all disturbed areas. The limits of the curb-to-curb resurfacing depicted on the submitted plans C100 and C200 by Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. are acceptable to the DPW.
- The curb-to-curb patch should be a 1.5-inch mill and overlay. Tack coat should be applied to all milled surfaces and joints prior to paving. Finished joints should be treated with a rubberized asphalt sealer.

We also recommend that the following requirements be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

- The applicant shall file for a Water and Sewer permit for the proposed sewer connection, and a highway road opening permit for the proposed curb work and patching.
- No contractor is authorized to close any street or to close a direction of travel to facilitate their work without authorization from the Director of the Department of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent. The Chief of Police can also authorize a closure for a police or fire emergency. Construction zone traffic safety issues are to be addressed by using appropriate traffic control signs and devices and the use of police officers for traffic control to safely guide traffic through the work zone. If a closure is authorized by the DPW, it shall not be implemented until signs and police officers (where needed) are properly in place in conformity with the written plan prepared by the contractor's engineer and approved by the DPW and Police Department.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 25 063

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

- **25 066** National Grid Petition: 104 – 116 Washington Street/Independence Ave/Cedar Street or take up any action relative thereto

Council President Ryan asked for a recommendation from, Councilor Flaherty, Chairwoman of the Committee on the Department of Public Works.

Chairwoman Flaherty stated the Committee on the Department of Public Works-met this evening and sends this to the full Council with a unanimous favorable recommendation on Order 25 066.

Councilor Boericke asked if this is to replace leaking for leak-prone pipe.

Mary Mulroney, National Grid Representative stated it is leak-prone pipe but also the Town of Braintree is doing utility work so it is pre-construction. We are trying to go in ahead of their work.

Council President Ryan asked is there a Motion on Order 25 066?

Motion read by Councilor Ringius:

MOTION: To grant the request from National Grid due to utility work planned in the Town of Braintree, National Grid recommends the relay of:

325 feet of 1.5-inch Coated Steel (1950), 20 feet of 1.5-inch, Plastic (1980), 10 feet of 1.5-inch, Bare Steel (1914), and 285 feet of 2-inch, Coated Steel (1959) with approximately 640 feet of 2-inch, Plastic in Washington St from #104 Washington St towards the intersection of Independence Av (stopping prior to newer pavement), and approximately 30 feet of 2-inch, Plastic (1989) with approximately 30 feet of 2-inch, Plastic in the intersection of Cedar St and Washington St. with staff recommendations:

BELD: BELD has no conflicts with this location.

DPW: The DPW has reviewed the subject petition and accompanying plans to relay the gas main on Washington Street, from Cedar Street to a point just south of Capen Rd. The work is being proposed as part of a program to eliminate aging gas infrastructure, particularly along roadways where the Town of Braintree has pending infrastructure improvements. The DPW has just completed replacing the watermain along this section of Washington Street and plans to resurface the roadway next year. The street is **not subject to the excavation moratorium**, having been last resurfaced in 2008. As such, the DPW recommends that if the petition is approved, it contains the following conditions:

- Temporary patches shall be placed immediately after the work. Street excavations should be saw-cut, backfilled, and compacted in 8-inch lifts, paved to match existing asphalt depth (with a minimum depth of four inches) in two-inch lifts to match the existing street grade. Compaction of the street excavations is of the utmost importance, and failure to do so may induce settling that could occur after the roadway is resurfaced.
- The temporary patches should be maintained in good working condition until which time the town completes its planned resurfacing project.

We also recommend that the following requirements be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

- National Grid must arrange a pre-construction meeting with Braintree the DPW and Braintree Police to review utility corridor assignment and traffic controls during the work. The new gas mains must not encroach on any existing utilities.
- No contractor is authorized to close any street or to close a direction of travel to facilitate their work without authorization from the Director of the Department of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent. The Chief of Police can also authorize a closure for a police or fire emergency. Construction zone traffic safety issues are to be addressed by using appropriate traffic control signs and devices and the use of police officers for traffic control to safely guide traffic through the work zone. If a closure is authorized by the DPW, it shall not be implemented until signs and police officers (where needed) are properly in place in conformity with the written plan prepared by the contractor's engineer and approved by the DPW and Police Department.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 25 066

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

- **25 067** National Grid Petition: Replace old regulator station on Pearl Street at Colbert Ave or take up any action relative thereto (*WITHDRAWN*)

Council President Ryan asked for a recommendation from, Councilor Flaherty, Chairwoman of the Committee on the Department of Public Works.

Chairwoman Flaherty stated the Committee on the Department of Public Works met this evening and National Grid has *WITHDRAWN* this petition on Order 25 067.

MOTION: National Grid has *WITHDRAWN* this petition on Order 25 067

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to *WITHDRAW* Order 25 067

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

- **038 25** Council President: 2026 Town Council Meeting Calendar (review/approve)

President Ryan asked are there any questions/concerns about the meeting calendar?
Councilor Ringius second by Councilor Morin asked to revise the 2026 Town Council Meeting Calendar by removing Tuesday, March 17, 2026 and adding Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

MOTION: to approve the 2026 Town Council Meeting Calendar as amended
Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve item 038 25 as amended
Second: by Councilor Morin
Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

NEW BUSINESS

- **25 068** Mayor: Authorization to Accept a Donation – The Chinese American Association or take up any action relative thereto (*Same Night Action Request*)

President Ryan asked if any one member of the Council objects to same night action?
Hearing none.

Director Esmond stated this is a request for the acceptance of this gift, 10 chairs from the Chinese American Association of Braintree. I think I'll just say that these are the types of contributions that go a long way to help the department, and not many other departments that benefit from such a thing, to be able to find creative and resourceful ways to serve the residents and try to find as many options, you know, maintaining a facility with equipment. So, we are asking for your support in accepting this donation.

Councilor Ringius stated thank you to the Chinese American Association of Braintree for this donation.

Motion read by Councilor Ringius:

MOTION: That the Town of Braintree be and hereby is authorized, in accordance with Section 53A ½ 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>
The Chinese American Association of Braintree, Inc. (CAAB)	10 chairs	Department of Elder Affairs

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 25 068
Second: by Councilor Boericke
Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee of Ways & Means

- **046 25** Councilor Boericke: FY26 Q1 Update or take up any action relative thereto

Motion read by Councilor Ringius to refer to the Committee of Ways & Means item 046 25

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to refer to the Committee of Ways & Means item 046 25

Second: by Councilor Boericke

Vote: For (9 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, Morin, Quilty, Reynolds, Ringius, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for: [Tuesday, December 16, 2025@7:30pm](#)

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:42p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

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