

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 @ 7:00pm

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call by City Clerk **James Mikel, Jr.** **Doug Money**
 Wayne Saltzman **Fay Smith**
 Robert Jones

IV. Public Comment: State your full name and spell your last name. Section 2-34 of the Braidwood Code of Ordinances imposes a three (3) minute limit for each person during public comment.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approve Minutes of the December 22nd, 2020, Regular Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the December 28th, 2020, Special Meeting

VII. REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

- A. Mayor
- B. Administrator
- C. Clerk
- D. Engineer
- E. City Attorney

VIII. REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

- A. **Accounts and Finances**
 - 1. Approve the Payment of Bills
 - 2. Approve Payroll
 - 3. Resolution to Appoint City Clerk Adam Beaty as the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Authorized Agent
- D. **Streets and Public Improvements**
- C. **Public Buildings & Property**
- D. **Public Health & Safety**
- E. **Planning & Zoning**

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. Next Regular City Council Meeting is Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 at 7:00pm

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council Tuesday, January 12th, 2021
Braidwood City Hall 141 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council on January 12th, 2021 was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Jones in the Council Chambers of the Braidwood City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Jones requested all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Upon Roll Call by the Clerk, the following members of the corporate authorities answered "Here" or "Present";

Elected Officials;

Present: Commissioner Saltzman, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Money, Commissioner Mikel, and Mayor Jones

Absent:

Appointed Officials:

Present: Chief Lyons, City Administrator Altiery, City Attorney Wellner, City Clerk Adam Beaty

Absent:

Quorum: There being sufficient members of the corporate authorities in attendance to constitute a quorum, the meeting was declared in order.

Public Comment: Mike Guinta addressed the council to discuss the completion of a contract with regard to Ordinance 18-14 which authorized the city to sell the balance of the lots in the Towns of Braidwood subdivision. He stated the City has not completed any of the improvements mentioned in the ordinance. Since this administration has taken office, Guinta said he has reached out on a monthly basis to see what needed to be done to move forward so he can close on the purchase of the lots. After a year, Guinta said he was told by City Administrator Altiery he never responded to a letter he received with regard to the contract. Guinta stated he made several requests for a copy of the letter and never received one. In June of 2020, Guinta stated he filed a FOIA for all documentation with respect to the Towns of Braidwood over the last 10 years. The filled FOIA finally contained a copy of the letter. The letter, drafted by City Attorney Wellner, stated the contract with Guinta's company was null and void because the previous administration which offered it for sale violated the law. Guinta did not believe the law could have been violated considering the lots were posted for sale on two separate occasions. The first occasion violated the law with regard to bid timing. The second occasion Guinta's bid was accepted and approved by the City Council. Guinta seeks a resolution to the matter before seeking other legal action.

Nick Ficarello, a non-resident, but former Chief of Police for the City of Braidwood, addressed the council regarding community discussion related to the movement \$75,000 from the City's Federal Forfeiture Account, and a 2017 loan for \$150,000 for building upgrades, a road project, and payroll software. Ficarello stated he had a copy of the check written for \$75,000 from the FFA account on April 23, 2019. Ficarello's last day of employment with the City. The check was written knowing, in 2022, this administration would need to pay approximately \$82,000 balloon payment on the \$150,000 loan.

Ficarello stated the \$75,000 was paid toward the loan in an effort to minimize the impact of the loan on the new administration. He also wanted to quell any speculation that the loan was secured for previous Mayor Jim Vehrs own use or the \$75,000 was never paid. Ficarello said he would be around if anyone had any questions after the meeting.

James Vehrs addressed the council that it showed a lack of respect, on the City's behalf, when the flag at City Hall was not lowered to honor Lester "Les" Heberer, a long-time community servant. Vehrs also stated it was disturbing for the town to see in the paper a headline like "Braidwood Mayor Not Jailed Yet."

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Saltzman, to approve meeting minutes from the December 22nd, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel, and Jones).

Commission Saltzman asked City Clerk Beaty if copies of the minutes would be provided at a later date in their mailboxes. Beaty said yes.

Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Saltzman, to approve meeting minutes from the December 28th, 2020 Special Council Meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel, and Jones).

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report

Administrator Report: Meetings continue with prospective businesses and hopefully in the next few meetings these businesses will be brought before for the council.

City Clerk Report: Beaty stated he was excited to get work in his new role and it has been a whirlwind thus far. Beaty reminded city businesses that business licenses and liquor licenses are available for pick up at the drive up window.

Engineer Report: Nothing to report

Chief of Police: Nothing to report

City Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Accounts & Finance Report: Commissioner Saltzman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Payment of Bills, in the amount of \$166,034.39 as identified in the Accounts Payable General Ledger dated January 12th, 2020. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel and Jones).

Commissioner Saltzman then made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to Approve Payroll Expenses, in the amount of \$91,849.55 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated January 5th, 2021. Motion carried with 5 ayes; 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, and Jones)

Commissioner Saltzman yielded to the City Attorney to discuss the resolution up for approval.

Commissioner Saltzman made the motion to approve the Resolution to Appoint City Clerk Adam Beaty as Authorized Agent for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Motion carried 5 ayes: 0 nays (Saltzman, Mikel, Money, Jones, Smith).

Streets & Public Improvement Report: Nothing to report. Hopes it doesn't snow.

Public Property Report: Commissioner Money reported maintenance and repairs made since the last meeting including a fire hydrant repair following damage done by fire apparatus during their response to a house fire a week ago. A power surge in the City also caused some damage to equipment.

Public Health & Safety Report: Commissioner Mikel reported from 12/28/2020 to 01/10/2021 total arrests were 3, 11 citations and warning, and a total of 168 calls for service. Mikel spoke with Chief Lyons about the budget and it appears to be right on track. Mikel yielded to Josh Bolatto to describe a resolution to that would be coming before the council at the next meeting regarding police and emergency management radio cooperation with Will County.

Planning & Zoning Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Saltzman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adjourn the January 12th, 2021 regular meeting of the Braidwood City Council. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel and Jones). The next regular meeting of the Council will be held January 26th, 2021 at 7:00pm

Approved this 26th day of January, 2021.



Mayor



City Clerk

