

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 9th, 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 January 26th, 2021, Regular Meeting

VII. REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

A. Mayor

B. Administrator

B. 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. Ordinance Amending Section 86-201 Bulk Water Purchases To Provide For A Service Fee

4. Ordinance Amending The City Code, Article VI Sec 78-140 To Sec 78-150 Hotel/Motel Transient Occupancy Rental Unit And Related Matters.

B. 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, February 23rd, 2021 at 7:00pm

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council Tuesday, February 9th, 2021
Braidwood City Hall 141 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council on February 9th, 2021 was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Commissioner Saltzman in the Council Chambers of the Braidwood City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Saltzman 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 (Remotely by phone as deemed practical and prudent by ILCS Public Act 101-0640 as it relates to in person meetings during a disaster declaration.)

Mayor Robert Jones asked Commissioner Saltzman to chair the meeting in his physical absence. Commissioner Saltzman agreed.

Absent: None

Appointed Officials:

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

Absent: Chief Todd Lyons, City Engineer David Weber.

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

Public Comment: Jay Dickson inquired why the sidewalks in town had not been cleaned following the latest snowfall. Some sidewalks were cleaned and others not. Dickson directed his question to Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith said crews focused on the streets first and citizens were responsible for their own sidewalks. The areas that were cleared of snow were done as a gesture to help. Smith said crews were doing everything in their power to get things done but a lot of equipment was breaking down.

Andy Galatte stated he came to help Commissioner Smith and the public to understand what was going on. Galatte mentioned Commissioner Smith was working with equipment that exceeded 20 years of age. Galatte suggested City Administrator Altiery as worked against Commissioner Smith, rather than with him. Galatte alleged Altiery does not want to help Commissioner Smith and sends "his people" up to pick on the 4-term Commissioner. Galatte suggested instead of the city buying bush hogs, new equipment for the streets department should be purchased. Instead of cutting Commissioner Smith's budget, Altiery should understand Commissioner Smith doesn't have the man power or equipment to complete his job correctly.

James Vehrs addressed the council to thank the ladies within city hall for their hard work in getting water bills out and handled on time. Vehrs also explained that other cities are not doing sidewalks and defended the opinion that is up to the residents to maintain their sidewalks.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Mikel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Money, to approve meeting minutes from the January 26th, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel, and Jones).

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report

Administrator Report: City Administrator Altiery explained how to sign up to view and pay for your water bill online. Altiery moved on to discuss the equipment issue brought up in Public Comment. Altiery stated that is easy to come up and attack persons on the council even though the current administration has only been in office for a year. Altiery suggested questions about equipment could be better asked of the former mayor and the administration which over spent into the millions and what equipment was purchased over the last 4 years. Equipment that is here now was the same equipment back then (directing comment toward Galatte who was then City Administrator). More expenditures have been cut and more businesses are coming to town than ever before. The City is moving forward.

"That's a lie" shouted from the rear of chamber. Altiery acknowledged everyone is entitled to their opinion, right or wrong.

Commissioner Saltzman added that its correct that no new equipment has been purchased in a long time and the budgets have been tight. Saltzman explained that the situation, being what it is, may warrant the need to go after bonds or borrowed money.

City Clerk Report: City Clerk Beaty reported that gaming licenses and the required stickers are ready for pick up.

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 \$144,163.72 as identified in the Accounts Payable General Ledger dated January 26th, 2021. 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 \$81,781.38 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated January 19th, 2021. Motion carried with 5 ayes; 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, and Jones)

Commissioner Saltzman introduced Ordinance 21-02 Amending Section 86-201 Bulk Water Purchases To Provide For A Service Fee. Commissioner Saltzman yielded to Commissioner Money to explain the Ordinance.

Commissioner Money explained Ordinance 21-02 provides a means to recover the cost of sending a Water Plant operator to come out and install a meter and then remove said meter when entities want to make bulk water purchases from the city. Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by

Commissioner Saltzman to approve Ordinance 21-02. Motion carried with 5 ayes (Mikel, Money, Saltzman, Smith, Jones); 0 Nays.

Commissioner Saltzman introduced Ordinance 21-03. An Ordinance Amending the City Code, Article VI Sec 78-140 to Sec 78-150 Regarding Hotel/Motel Transient Occupancy Rental Units and Related Matters. Commissioner Saltzman yielded to City Attorney Wellner to explain the Ordinance.

Wellner explained the ordinance renews agreement with Azavar for their assistance to reach out to our city's hotels and motels and audit for funds and collect a service fee from not just the area establishments but also collect from sites like Air BnB and other hotel booking sites. This ordinance allows the city to collect on a portion of those fees, that, without this agreement, the City may miss out on. Just an ordinance that allows the city to collect fees its entitled to as a result of hotel/motel bookings.

Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mikel to approve Ordinance 21-03. Motion carried with 5 ayes (Mikel, Money, Saltzman, Smith, Jones); 0 Nays.

Commissioner Saltzman urged residents to utilize the food pantry. Only about 20 families made use this past two weeks. He said he's heard many people they they didn't know the food pantry exists. Don't be shy. Come out and get taken care of.

Streets & Public Improvement Report: Commissioner Smith stated the city cut his budget by \$150,000. Commissioner Smith said he was promised people by the water department and they'd paid for by the water department but they spoke with "a forked tongue." Commissioner Smith then addressed City Administrator Altiery's claim that the city has saved so much money. Smith wanted to know where the money is since the "pot should be running over."

Altiery rebutted that in the last city council, the bills were between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Every two weeks now, the City very rarely exceeds \$150,000. That is \$300,000 in bills a month, down from \$600,000 from the previous council. Its all on paper and FOIAble. We are so close to a balanced budget for the first time in a long time.

Commissioner Smith addressed Altiery and stated he has had nothing but problems with his budget and man power since Altiery took over. Smith said he will continue to do the best he can for the people who put him in office and they will be the ones would take me out.

Public Property Report: Commissioner Money reported that water department crews help plow snow and de-ice. Helped the Streets Department maintain their trucks. Cleaned up the East Clarifier and brought it back online. Cleaned UV lights, tubing, and venting to prevent freeze ups given the critically cold weather. Replaced the float control box at the Pheasant Run lift station which has been giving the Water Department fits. Then to top of the last two weeks, a white vehicle smashed through the gate at the end of School St. There is a police report made and the United States Department of Homeland Security may take over the investigation as it may be considered an act of terrorism.

Public Health & Safety Report: Nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adjourn the February 9th, 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 February 23rd, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Approved this 23rd day of February, 2021.


_____ Mayor


_____ City Clerk

