

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00pm

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call by City Clerk

Doug Money
Ron Wilczak Sr.

Warren Wietting
Karen Hart

Dale Walsh

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.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approve Minutes of the Tuesday, February 13, 2024 Regular Meeting

VI. REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

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

VII. REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

- A. Accounts and Finances
 - 1. Approve Payment of Bills **\$197,425.78**
 - 2. Approve Payroll **\$85,367.75**
- B. Streets and Public Improvements
- C. Public Buildings & Property
- D. Public Health & Safety
- E. Planning & Zoning

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to go into executive session to discuss (i) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)) and (ii) pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the City (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11))
- B. Motion to close executive session

XI. Next City Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00pm

XII. ADJOURNMENT

All agenda packets are available at www.braidwood.us
Under the tab Residents-Agendas

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Braidwood City Hall 141 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council on February 27, 2024 was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Hart in the Council Chambers of the Braidwood City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Hart 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 Money, Commissioner Wietting, Commissioner Walsh, Commissioner Wilczak and Mayor Hart

Absent:

Appointed Officials:

Present: City Clerk Sarah Weaver, City Administrator Tony Altieri, City Engineer Dave Weber, and City Attorney Bryan Wellner

Absent: Chief Bret Goodwin

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

Public Comment: Mike Tomasek; 284 Fossil Ridge Rd: I would like to mention that my wife and I went to the fish fry at the Top Fuel. It was absolutely terrific. The service and people were outstanding. They have it fresh every night. If you looking for a good evening to eat, that is the place to go.

Danita Morgan; 635 W Cermak: I am here representing the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition which is at 465 E. Reed St. Tonight, I am here to announce that as of January 29th, I have been appointed the position of the Community Outreach Coordinator. My responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the day-to-day operations of the drug-free community grant and to facilitate collaboration efforts with the sector representatives, coalition members, and the general community. My role also includes coordinating volunteer recruitment and management for community events and coalition programs and activities. If anyone is interested in volunteering with events and special projects, I have provided flyers, a volunteer sign-up sheet, and my business cards are over on the table. Feel free to take extra if you want to hand them out to anyone. The volunteer time can be applied to any required community service hours as well. I am super excited to work with the Braidwood Community and working together in the months ahead.

Kim Ormond; 667 W. Third St: I have spoken about the issues with smoke in my neighborhood in the past. I know that you, Mayor Hart, along with Tony took a drive into my area but did not encounter any smoke. To be honest, I began to doubt myself and wondered if I was exaggerating. On February 7, I began to write down the air conditions outside my home. Not only was I not exaggerating, but the smoke levels in my neighborhood are basically criminal. In the 21 days since I began tracking, I was forced to

breath in smoke on 14 of those days. This means that 67% of the days I was denied the basic human right of clean air. Does anyone think it's okay for a human being to only have clean air 33% of the days they are alive? I posted on social medias asking if others were having issues with smoke in town. They were. One man indicated that he had to leave town and stay in another area because of people's burn barrels. A family cannot spend time in their own back yard because of burning. One woman private messaged me and indicated she can't even leave her windows open. I cannot do so either. If I go and take a shower, I have to close all my windows because it starts smoking. I don't want to get out of the shower with a house full of smoke. I have asthma, this is killing me. This is not a matter of when do one person's rights begin and another's end. Clean air is a basic human right. The desire to burn things and force one's neighbors to breath toxic smoke laden with harmful chemicals and carcinogens is not. Would anyone in this room be okay with it if I were to spray them in the mouth with benzene and formaldehyde, which is contained in smoke. Would anyone in this room say it is okay if I did this to their family members? In one social media post a man practically bragged about how city officials told him his burning was okay when a neighbor complained. This is bull. If someone is being bothered enough by smoke to complain, it is not okay. Anyone who thinks it is fine to poison others with known carcinogens is a sociopath. Sociopaths should not be catered to by any city government. If smoke is causing a nuisance and a health hazard for any resident, then the fire causing the hazard needs to be shut down. At this point I wonder if I should contact the state and EPA. If a corporation was polluting our air like this, they would be fined, the problem would be forced to be remedied, and even criminal charges might be levied. Private citizens should not be allowed to engage in behavior that is illegal for businesses. I challenge city government to meet with residents affected by smoke and tighten up city codes where needed and to enforce those already in place. I am not talking about the occasional bond fire. I have lived in this town for over 25 years and it wasn't until last year this all started. There must be a few people who are doing this. If someone has a bond fire once or twice in the summer and they are not smoking out their neighbors, that is no big deal. I have a burn pit in my yard, I hardly use it, but I burn about twice a year. I burn very dry stuff and if there is enough wind to take it away and it is not lingering in the neighborhood. This is in the air for hours, there have been days when it was about 10 hours it was outside in the air. I have called the police and that hasn't done anything. At this point, I am not sure where it is coming from. This really needs to be looked into and other people are having issues also. Twice I tried to pump gas at BP, couldn't do it because someone was burning. Those days it smelled like garbage or rubber. The ordinances need to be tightened up and the ones we have in place needs to be enforced.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Wilczak made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walsh, to approve meeting minutes from the February 13, 2024. Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays; 0 Abstain (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak and Hart)

Mayor's Report: I would like everyone to be aware of the weather, it looks like we may not get the worst of it but you never know. This is called Tornado Alley down here. Be aware and make plans. Be safe rather than sorry.

Administrator Report: I have a few things. This last Friday I met with the owner of the old Jones-eez building, he has met with multiple people on reopening the eatery and bar. He is down to two choices. They are looking at the place for a wedding venue. We know the American Legion always does Bingo on Tuesday nights. Hopefully in the next 30 days he will have a contract signed with one of the two people. Then we will have another eatery besides the Sunrise down here that is working on getting open also. The development out by the highway where the old restaurant is, they turned in all their paperwork today for a zoning meeting. We should have them on the schedule within the next 30 days. Ultimate Rides is less than 30 days away. Their goal is the middle of March but I expect about April 1st. It is moving along nicely. Also, I have heard your complaints, I have personally taken the mayor out there, Warren, and

Doug, I drive by there no less than every other day to try and find out where the smoke is coming from. I have also spoke with the chief and asked him if he could have extra patrol down there to see if they can find or see anything. We did find someone on Kennedy Road burning his ditches which was blowing towards another house. We asked him to stop and he did. I would greatly appreciate if you would call city hall as it is happening, then I will personally come to your house and check. I will give you my cell number and I will come after hours.

City Clerk Report: I know the weather has been very spring like the last few days but I wanted to remind everyone that the yard waste can is still garbage. It will not be yard waste until April 1st. I have been in contact with the garbage company for a Spring Clean-Up some time in May. They are supposed to have flyers out and I hope to have them soon with more details.

Admin. Altiery: I also want to remind everyone to put your garbage in a bag and not just in the can. On the last few windy days, the loose garbage has been flying around.

Engineer Report: I will update on the street assessment. The field work has been done. We expect the mapping to be done by the end of next week.

City Attorney Report: None.

Accounts & Finance Report: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to approve the Payment of Bills, in the amount of \$197,425.78 as identified in the Accounts Payable General Ledger dated February 27, 2024. Motion carried with 5 ayes; 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak and Hart) Commissioner Money then made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilczak, to Approve Payroll Expenses, in the amount of \$85,367.75 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated February 16, 2024. Motion carried with 5 ayes; 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak and Hart).

Streets & Public Improvement Report: Commissioner Walsh: We are still working with our guys for their contract, it been a while. We are hoping for a speedy resolution with their contract for the next three years. A few weeks ago, I saw a Facebook post, her name is Jacquelin Rall, she was planning on meeting at English St. near their home and do a clean-up. This is the time of year where it's between the winter garbage and mowing season. I met up with Jacquelin and her sons; Tanum, 10 and Trent, 8; they got some bags and went north on English St. Then later they went down Hickory St. by Beaver Creek golf carts then down past Ultimate Rides to Kennedy. They got about 4 big black garbage bags then about 3-4 smaller bags. I gave the boys some pickers, but I might have made it worse for you guys. Did it help? Yes. Did you get some compensation at the end? Tanum: Nothing really. She just said "Good job". That's it. Jacquelin: One of the neighbors saw my post asked if we needed garbage bags and dropped off \$40. One spent some of their money and the other one is still harboring his money. They did it for about 2 hours. Comm. Walsh: I just wanted to thank all three of you. You are what makes Braidwood a wonderful city.

Public Property Report: Commissioner Wietting: We are in process of a few things; we should have more information at the next meeting. We are still accepting applications for the water plant. In about a week or so we will start setting up interviews.

Public Health & Safety Report: Commissioner Wilczak: The first thing is, our Public Health and Safety is what we are facing now is the weather. Just be aware and cautious with the temperature change. There is the possibility of the high winds tonight. There is a slight chance of a tornado, so be aware.

There is going to be a Senior Safety Morning session at the Fossil Ridge Library. This is for safety, cooking, and kitchen. This is from 10am – 11am on March 14, 2024. Last is the police department press release information from February 13 – 25, 2024. The total number of calls for service is 181, case reports 13, total subjects arrested 3, total arrest charges 3, total number of traffic stops 71, citations 28, written warning 25, total number of P-tickets 15, P-tickets issued to trucks 10.

Planning & Zoning Report: None.

Old Business: Mayor Hart: I want to let you know that we are looking at the ordinance for the smoking and burning. We do hear you and are working on it.

Kim Ormond: Will you be willing to sit down with residents for their input and I have some information from other towns and their ordinances.

Comm. Wilczak: If you would like to submit some information you can send it to my email.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Commissioner Wietting made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilczak, to adjourn the February 27, 2024 regular meeting of the Braidwood City Council. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak and Hart) The next regular meeting of the Council will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00pm

Approved this 12 Day of March 2024.

Kevin E. Hart Mayor

Sarah M. Weaver City Clerk

