

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday March 8, 2016 @ 7:00pm

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Public Comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 23, 2016 Regular Meeting

REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor-

Administrator-

Clerk- American Legion Poppy Days, May 20 (6-12), May 21 (8-12)

Engineer-

City Attorney- Resolution 16-4, Adopting City of Braidwood Credit Card Policy
Resolution 16-5, Authorizing Mayor to Execute Agreement with Independent Auditor

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Accounts and Finances -Payment of Bills
-Payroll

Streets and Public Improvements -

Public Buildings & Property-

Public Health & Safety-

Planning & Zoning -

Executive Session- Discuss personnel, pending and/or imminent litigation, collective bargaining/labor relations
or land acquisition
-Actions to be taken following Executive Session:

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Call to Order

Mayor Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Vehrs asking everyone to please stand for a moment of silence on the passing of Former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Vehrs asked everyone to please stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Elected Officials present: Commissioner Hibler, Commissioner Hutton, Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Tessler, and Mayor Vehrs were present.

Appointed officials present: City Attorney Bryan Kopman, City Administrator Andy Galatte, Chief Nick Ficarello and City Clerk Sue Grygiel were present. City Engineer was absent.

Public Comment

Walter Kozielski, new business owner at 275 S. Hickory. Wanted to come to council meeting and introduce himself to the council and explain his business that's going into the old Knights of Columbus. He has a partner with him in the business, Bob Chuway. The business is called Top Fuel Saloon and it will be a Racing Themed Bar. They will have a full kitchen and his partner Bob will be running the kitchen, who also runs a place in Joliet. Walter said they are going to have National & Local Entertainment; Country, Rock and will have comedy shows as well. Will be having outside events; car shows, tractor shows. He's looking into getting some Race Car Drivers here too. He will be opening on April 1st. On April 30th the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition is having their Spring Fling there, April 9th he's having a St. Baldrick's Day Bash to raise money for children's cancer research, and on June 11th there's a going away party for a local lady in Braidwood that's going into the army, being very dedicated to our troops with welcoming home and going away parties.

Jamie Blackwell, He wanted to give a hand to the Police Department for what they are doing with getting drugs off our streets and round of applause, they're turning this around now. And Jamie also said all you commissioners and everybody; Administrator, Attorney's you are doing a wonderful job and keep it up, and everyone applauded them also.

Bill Rulien, He said that it appears that we have an issue with somebody not doing their job properly. That night after the election he took his credit card and shredded it, and still his name is on the credit card bills 6 months later published in the newspaper. He questions the finances for \$3000 at the Chicago Hilton and a couple of hundred dollars to purchase gourmet candy out of Joliet.

Jim Canup, He addressed the Memorial Day Program to be held on Memorial Day at 9:00am across street from city hall by the monument.

Public Comment closed at 7:08pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the February 23, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved as read. Motion made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Tessler. Mayor Vehrs asked for discussion. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays, (Hutton, Tessler, Hibler, Smith & Mayor Vehrs).

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

At this time the Mayor addressed the issue with the credit cards. Elan was contacted by the Mayor several times after becoming Mayor and got no response to changing over the credit cards. The Mayor then took the direction of commission and went to US Bank. We started a corporate with US Bank and were issued (4) different numbered credit cards. We are now with US Bank. We had another gentlemen come in with a card reader for water bills, etc. and he would be able to offer us city credit cards as well. The Mayor said on December 17th theirs a charge to Dan's Candy on the city's US Bank credit card because he pulled out the wrong credit card to pay for the candy. On December 18th he realized he had used the wrong US Bank card of which he has (3) Personal US Bank cards in his wallet. He put the \$205 dollars in the safe and reimbursed the money back to the city. The Mayor apologized for pulling out wrong card, got in conversation at counter about G Shaft candy and how it's from Braidwood, pulled out what he thought was his US Bank card and paid for the candy. The Mayor also brought up the many recent FOIA's and newspaper articles, Bob Snedeker presents a very convincing argument. He is convinced and persuades citizens, city officials that there are issues pertaining to credit card expenditures that are improper. Over 100 total man hours have been spent on these FOIA's, and follow-up, examination of these credit card bills and city expenditures. No matter how we review the expenditure there is always going to be a suspicion. This is why the Mayor is openly calling for an independent review and audit of all City of Braidwood expenditures with the hopes of putting this issue to rest and be able to move on.

Administrator

Andy as had people asking him about Economic Development. We've already heard from one of the new businesses coming into town here tonight, Top Fuel Saloon. Also Crown Flooring has moved into town on Rte. 53, and Emmy's Café is hopefully opening in the next 3-4 weeks. Andy advised that he had a very successful meeting yesterday with another gas station, actually will be a 24-hr. full service gas station. They are looking at possibly Good Table property, possibly Reed Road area. Also the contract for Townes of Braidwood is at its final stages. Mr. Hutton was with Andy when they had the meeting, that contract should be coming forward very shortly. Lastly Andy talked with Heritage Collection Museum. These are the people who are going to put the museum in Wilmington by the old church as you're leaving Wilmington. They haven't been successful negotiating a land deal there. They have asked to come here in the next few weeks and look at our downtown. They are willing to purchase property downtown to do a museum. Andy said he hopes that when they come to Braidwood they make a presentation to the council if they feel they can go forward with it. Andy hasn't heard back from the VFW and they are very aware of what we are doing. They also know if they are going to be TIF eligible, we have to meet with the TIF Attorney which will take place in the next couple of weeks.

City Clerk

The only agenda item the clerk had was a request from the American Legion for their Annual Poppy Days on May 20th from 6-12pm and May 21st from 8-12pm. The clerk asked for a motion to approve the Poppy Days on dates requested by the American Legion.

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to approve Poppy Day's on May 20th and May 21st. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith, Hibler, Tessler and Mayor Vehrs).

Engineer

Absent.

City Attorney

The attorney advised there are (2) Resolutions for council consideration tonight. The first is adopting the credit card policy in light of recent issues that have come up. There currently is no policy, written policy within the City of Braidwood regarding the issuance of credit cards, authorized user and any disciplinary actions if misused. Working with the Mayor we drafted a credit card policy that has been circulated and Resolution 16-4 adopts the City of Braidwood Credit Card Policy. Comm. Tessler asked at this time to go into Executive Session.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Comm. Tessler to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, pending and/or imminent litigation, collective bargaining/labor relations or land acquisition, seconded by Comm. Hutton at 7:16pm.

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to Reconvene our Regular Session at 8:20pm.

The city attorney advised the council that they have Resolution 16-4 before them to adopt the City of Braidwood Credit Card Policy. The attorney asked if there's a motion to approve that resolution?

A motion was made by Comm. Hibler, seconded by Comm. Hutton to adopt Resolution 16-4. Mayor asked for discussion. Comm. Tessler wanted to make note that changes can be made to this resolution. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hibler, Hutton, Smith, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

The city attorney addressed is last agenda item, Resolution 16-5 Authorizing Mayor to Execute Agreement with Independent Auditor. The attorney asked if there's a motion to approve that resolution? The attorney asked is there a motion to approve Resolution 16-5? There being no motion made it dies for the lack of a motion. The attorney said this may be coming back to the council at the next meeting in a different format.

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Accounts & Finances

Comm. Hibler made a motion to pay the total bills due on our Check Register in the amount of \$145,870.37 seconded by Comm. Hutton. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hibler, Hutton, Smith, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Comm. Hibler made a motion to pay the Payroll Expenses due in the amount of \$84,944.97, seconded by Comm. Smith. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hibler, Smith, Tessler, Hutton & Mayor Vehrs).

Streets & Public Improvements

Comm. Smith said he has no idea how many potholes his crew has filled, they've had about (4) loads. If anybody wants to see if his men are working they can see them on the street or they are in the shop. He's not having any problems, they're doing their job and he appreciates how they're doing.

Public Buildings & Property

Comm. Hutton gave his maintenance report for the last 2 weeks. The hydraulic pump and coupling went out about \$3,200 to repair it, it's back online again. The aerator will probably put back in the pond in next 2-3 weeks.

Public Health & Safety

Comm. Tessler read the Chief's Report for the last two weeks. Braidwood Police conducted a week long investigation pertaining to crystal meth production. A search warrant was issued by Braidwood Police, assisted by State Police, Wilmington along with the Braidwood Fire Department in the 400 block of West Second St. They seized 768 grams equivalent to 1.68 pounds of crystal meth was recovered along an active meth cook lab. Two adults were arrested and charged. Eric reiterated good job. These guys do great work and sometimes get criticized, and every one of them earns their wage. Officer Altiery responded to a call of a heroin overdose, he used and administered Narcan and saved the overdosed victim. This the 3rd save that Officer Altiery has been involved in the last 5 months. Hats off to him as well said Comm. Tessler. The commissioner then gave arrest reports. Comm. Tessler wanted to make a comment about the bills and the reason we did not approve a 3rd party independent auditor, he wants to make it very clear that we don't want this 3rd party affiliated with anyone on the council, appointed officials. Comm. Tessler said we will be having a motion at the next meeting to authorize this. He also apologized for wasting everyone's time; this is something that should not have happened. We should not be spending money in the way we are spending; it's unethical in his opinion. It all comes down to ethics Tessler said.

Planning & Zoning Board Report

Jim Canup addressed the council on behalf of Zoning Board. They held a meeting last night for a variance for a garage but didn't have all the correct dimensions with setbacks, etc. to review. So this variance request has been continued onto the next meeting. They are also discussing doing a workshop on garages.

Old Business

Nothing to Report.

New Business

Comm. Hutton advised that there is a meeting on Thursday in Schaumburg on a pre-job for the High Speed Rail.

Adjournment

Comm. Tessler made motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Comm. Hutton. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Tessler, Hutton, Smith, Hibler & Mayor Vehrs). Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 2nd day of March 2016

James A. Vehrs Mayor

Sue Grogan City Clerk

