

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, March 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 February 23rd, 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**

B. Streets and Public Improvements

C. Public Buildings & Property

D. Public Health & Safety

- 1. Ordinance 21-04 Amending Section 82-106 Parking During Street Cleaning To Regulate Parking After Two Inches of Snow**

E. Planning & Zoning

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Executive Session**

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. Next Regular City Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 at 7:00pm

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council on March 9th, 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: Mayor Jones, Commissioner Mikel, Commissioner Money, Commissioner Saltzman, Commissioner Smith

Absent: None

Appointed Officials:

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

Absent: 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: Nick Ficarello addressed the council regarding a newspaper article from January 20th, 2021, regarding the \$75,000 check he claimed this administration continues to bring up. He stated he has proof of where the check went and when. Ficarello continued to say that the article said Chief Lyons doesn't use federal monies to balance the budget. He said he submitted a FOIA for the federal seizure account and it showed 22 deposits from April 2020 to December of 2020. Ficarello said that it showed \$200,000 that Chief Lyons did use the money to "balance the federal budget." After Ficarello left office, there was \$66,000 in the forfeiture account. He said Chief Lyons received over \$210,000 to that account, "but you don't use that money to balance the federal budget you said I do." Ficarello also said, with regard to the remodeling of the police department, that he started the projects but Chief Lyons said Ficarello did the "wrong thing," but then Chief Lyons continued the projects himself doing the same "wrong thing." Ficarello said that he doesn't know what games people are trying to say, especially with \$75,000 and the \$150,000 loan that keeps coming up, and they keep blaming "that man over there," (Ficarello pointed to the back of the chamber, unsure who he was pointing at.) or me claiming that \$75,000 was misspent." Ficarello said he has a copy of the check and the actions of this administration is borderline defamation of character and he's tired of it. Period. Ficarello walked away from the microphone but quickly came back and asked if he had time left. While looking at Chief Lyons, he said that Lyons made statements that we (meaning Ficarello and the previous administration) brought drugs into Braidwood. Ficarello asked, "Do we have poppy fields outside of Braidwood? Are there Coca plants? Is there an opium processing plant in Braidwood? Is there a pharmaceutical company in Braidwood? Where do you [Lyons] think the drugs come from? You had 29 overdoses, I think, last year. So don't tell me the drugs aren't coming from Braidwood. They still are."

David Slager addressed the council and said he started watching these meetings back when Ultimate Rides was voted in. He never paid attention to politics in this town for 27 years. He saw how people responded when they heard that something was coming to this town that somebody fought for to get this town better, but [Expletive] hasn't happened. The thought was that Ultimate Rides was going to help us get out the financial debt we were in. Slager looked to Chief Lyons and said, "To you, thank you. You're doing a damn good job." Slager walked away from the microphone to address Commissioner Smith directly. Slager told Commissioner Smith he did not need to look down to, "that man down there," referring to Commissioner Saltzman. Slager stated every since he started watching these meetings and someone asks Commissioner Smith a question, he looks toward Commissioner Saltzman. Slager told Commissioner Smith he reviewed the streets budget and pointed out specific numbers from maintenance. In December, the budget stated \$11,000 was spent from the allotted \$20,000. In February, the budget, on the same line item, said the full \$20,000 remained. Where did 3 months of maintenance go? Where did that \$11,000 go? Slager said he enjoyed crunching numbers and he found the missing \$11,000 "mysteriously" in another line item. Slager criticized Commissioner Smith and his claims of needing new vehicles.

Commissioner Smith asked Slager if he knew how old the vehicles were. Slager said it did not matter. Slager asked if Commissioner Smith has personally worked on the vehicles, yes or no. Commissioner Smith said personally, he does not because he's not allowed to.

Slager continued to evaluate Commissioner Smith on his pay for work within the city and his attendance. Slager suggested all officials get key cards or the like so it can be shown when they are here and when they are not.

Commissioner Smith accused Slager of being paid to come to the meeting to criticize him. Slager said he was not paid a dime.

Mayor Jones called for order and an end to Slager's public comment.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Saltzman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mikel, to approve meeting minutes from the February 23rd, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. City Clerk stated before the roll call vote, a small typo was made on the second page of the minutes. The word "who" should have been "how." Due to the error by Robert's Rules, another motion to approve the minutes as amended was necessary. Motion was made again by Commissioner Saltzman and seconded by Commissioner Mikel. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel, and Jones).

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report.

Administrator Report: City Administrator Altiery reported that a senior citizen called into City Hall regarding his water bill and what he believed was a mistake. Office personnel as well as City Clerk Beaty and Altiery reviewed the bills for over 550 seniors who were entitled to the senior discount. With 7 bills it was discovered that in 2015 a clerical error caused those residents to not have a discount. Those affected were contacted and credits from \$35.00 to \$150.00 have already been issued. All other bills are correct now and historically.

Altiery also reported that he met with several businesses and the recurrent issue is the lack of visibility, especially at the I55 and Rt. 113 (Coal City Rd.) interchange. Altiery stated he was in contact with IDOT who was willing to send out a chipper. Altiery is looking for the cooperation between Commissioner Money and Commissioner Smith to send guys to the interchange sometime soon to work with IDOT and clear that area up.

Altiery reported that he secured a grant for equipment. At no cost to the citizens, the police department can purchase bullet proof vests and reflective vests. For public works, a tire balancer, sewer line locator, a thumper for locating water lines, safety ladders, safety cones, safety harnesses for elevated jobs, and 55 gallon drum dollies. All this secured at no cost to the city.

City Administrator Altiery has secured approximately \$800,000 in grants in under 2 years.

At the next council meeting, Ultimate Rides will be in attendance as they submit for an amendment to their purchase contract to pay the city back in less than the original 12 months. As soon as that is signed they will continue forward with their business.

City Clerk Report: City Clerk Beaty reported he spent a lot of time updating personnel files that were left a mess and lacked a lot of required information. He worked closely with City Administrator Altiery to clean up the water bill issue. Additionally, Beaty worked City Attorney Wellner to bring city ordinances up to more modern standards on a parking ordinance that Commissioner Mikel will present..

The Clerk reported he fulfilled 3 FOIAs over the past 2 weeks for a total of 18 hours of work. FOIAs included:

- 1 - Budget Revenues and Expenditures – 1 hour
- 1 -- Water Bills for Elected Officials – 1 hour
- 1 – Regarding City Personnel (FOIA denied as the requested information did not exist) -- 0.5 hours

Year to date 20.5 hours has been dedicated to FOIAs

Engineer Report: Nothing to report

Chief of Police: Nothing to report

City Attorney Report: Reported on the passing of Criminal Justice reform bill in Springfield. The bill's key points are as follows:

- Requires police departments to report, on a monthly basis, to Illinois State Police, any incidents that a law enforcement officer was dispatched to deal with a person experiencing mental health crisis's
- Reporting on a monthly basis, any incidents involving use of force especially if the action resulted in death, serious bodily injury, or the discharge of a firearm at or in the direction of a person.
- Requires all public and non-public records related to complaints, investigations, and adjudications of police misconduct be retained permanently and cannot be destroyed.
- Requires all law enforcement officers to wear body cameras. For Braidwood, all officers must have body cameras by January 1, 2025.
- New training requirements including regular mental health screenings for probationary and permanent police officers.
- Requires at least 30 hours of in-service training every three years with a curriculum in crisis intervention.
- Newly imposed duties of law enforcement officers
 - All law enforcement officer must render medical aid if it is determined the injury occurred as a result of use of force.

- Imposes a duty to intervene to all police officers to stop another police officer from using unauthorized force.
- Imposes general rights to persons in custody
 - Within 3 hours of being taken into custody arrestees must be given the opportunity to speak with an attorney or family members
 - Access to their cell phones for retrieving phone numbers.
 - Requires signage to be posted within police department booking areas advising persons in custody with this information.

Accounts & Finance Report: Commissioner Saltzman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Payment of Bills, in the amount of \$75,621.29 as identified in the Accounts Payable General Ledger dated March 8th, 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 \$83,436.95 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated March 9th, 2021. Motion carried with 5 ayes; 0 nays. (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel and Jones).

Streets & Public Improvement Report: Commissioner Smith stated that its like we're acting like kindergarten kids. He doesn't punch a card here because his work isn't at the City Hall. He wished people would look and ask how he works with such a low budget. He wished everyone on the council could trust one another when they say they are going to do something. Its like working in a playhouse. No one means business. He didn't know he couldn't look down at Commissioner Saltzman. That's just baby stuff. Smith reported that he has such old equipment and its constantly breaking down and he has record of it. Smith said he also doesn't have a key for City Hall because he turned it in for his own reasons.

Public Property Report: Commissioner Money reported on maintenance and repair of equipment at the plant and throughout the city.

Public Health & Safety Report: Commissioner Mikel reported that from February 22nd to March 7th a total of 4 arrests and 189 total calls for service. Commissioner Mikel thanked the City Administrator for securing the grant to get the police department some much needed equipment.

Commissioner Mikel made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-04 Amending Section 82-106 Parking During Street Cleaning to Regulate Parking After Two Inches of Snow.

City Attorney Wellner clarified that it is not a new ordinance, it simply updates the one currently on the books to more modern expectations.

City Clerk Beaty stated that this was one of the ordinances that he worked Wellner on to get drafted up. When we had that most recent snow fall, a lot of complaints came into City Hall. Many of the complaints asked about the ordinance so that prompted him to look at the ordinance. The last time the ordinance was visited was September of 1970! So it was necessary to bring the code up to more modern standards.

The original motion by Commissioner Mikel was seconded by Commissioner Saltzman. The motion carried with 5 ayes ; 0 nays (Saltzman, Smith, Money, Mikel and Jones).

Planning & Zoning Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Saltzman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Money, to adjourn the March 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 March 23rd, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Approved this 23th day of March, 2021.

 Mayor

 City Clerk

