CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 @ 7:00pm
Regular Meeting-City Council Chambers

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

May 26, 2015 -Regular Meeting

REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor

Appointment of Zoning Chair to Zoning Board
Re-Appoint Larry Bennett to Zoning Board, Term Expired 10/31/13
Appointment to Police Pension Board

Administrator

Clerk

"Fill the Boot" drive to benefit MDA, June 12, 5-8pm, June 13, 1-4pm, June 14, 9am-1pm
Speaker Jason Eaton, First Investors

Engineer

City Attorney

Intergovernmental Agreement By and Between Village of Coal City & City of Braidwood Concerning Building & Property Inspection Services

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Accounts and Finances

Payment of Bills
Payroll

Streets and Public Improvements

Public Buildings & Property

Approval to Increase the Depreciation up to 50yrs. on the Sewer Plant

Public Health & Safety

Planning & Zoning Board Report

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
Minutes
City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2015
City Council Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Jim Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Vehrs asked everyone in attendance that before reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone pauses for a moment of silence in honor of Mike Tessler.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call

Elected Officials present: Mayor Vehrs, Commissioner of Public Property Jim Hutton, Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements Fay Smith.
Commissioner of Public Health and Safety Eric Tessler, and Commissioner of Accounts and Finances Elena Hibler were absent at this meeting.

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

Public Comment

Rich Girot, Commented that he noticed since the last time he was at council meeting here the cameras have been taken out and they were in council room for security reasons and to protect the people in this town. He said can't understand why they were taken out. You can't walk into the Will County Courthouse without a camera on you. Doesn't know who made that decision and would like to see them back. Comm. Hutton asked Mayor if he could address Rich. Comm. Hutton told him that the Court said to take them out, cannot tape a court proceeding.
Rich then addressed another issue, the Mayor did away with ESDA-why? Rich said they had spent quite a bit of money and it took you one week to disband. If the Fire Department is doing do we have an intergovernmental agreement? Did anybody vote for this? So you're taking our tax dollars and not using it for ESDA? Administrator Andy Galatte spoke at this time stating that he spoke with the Accountant about the tax and what the percentage was and he claims there is no tax coming to the city. Andy had meeting with Ken from the Fire Dept. and they are going to look at Will County to see if there is a tax and has it been collected and if so where did the money go to. The Accountant that your Administration hired and we still have on retainer said there was no money received to the city for ESDA. Rich said because the city is on a tax cap and they only get so much money. Andy told him when you make a statement and accusing this council of taking tax dollars and there are no tax dollars than I have to object to that. Mayor Vehrs said he spoke with the Fire Chief and came to a mutual agreement. The Mayor feels the Fire Department is more qualified and has the equipment, resources, and if there are tax dollars then we will turn them back over to the taxing bodies, there is no problem with that. Rich Girot questioned why didn't we go to Wilmington ESDA? Do we have an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Fire Dept. Mayor replied not at this time, Fire Chief is working on putting someone in as Coordinator and hasn't got to that point yet. At this time the City Attorney spoke, this is in discussions with the Fire Dept. and nothing has been disbanded as of yet. And the attorney said when an agreement is reached, an Intergovernmental Agreement will be entered and Ordinance will be passed. Also if there is a tax levy, that will

be directed to the Fire Dept. if they are taking over the program and if there isn't a tax levy than there is nothing to talk about. The attorney said the Mayor is determining discussions with the Fire Chief is that can deal with much more efficiently than the city can. Rich Girot kept pushing the issue of an Intergovernmental Agreement.

Rich Girot then stated to Mayor that you kept complaining that we had too many squad cars in the police department, and then you turn around and buy more squad cars, and then give a drug seizure vehicle to a citizen. He said you cannot subsidize your budget with seized vehicles. The Mayor then asked the Police Chief to speak on this issue. Rich stated there are other cars that Andy Galatte can drive. He also stated that let's go seize another vehicle so we have another vehicle to use. Chief Ficarello called the Vehicle Seizure under Illinois State Seizure Code, talked with two people in Springfield that handle seizures. A seized vehicle can be turned over to the city of the Police Department as long as the lights are stripped out. A seized vehicle after one year from the seizure can be retitled to the city or sold after being retitled to the city after it was in possession of the police department for one year and then sold. It can be turned over prior to the city as long as the lights are stripped out and there is an agreement that it will not be used as a police care, emergency car, can be driven by a civilian. Rich Girot still pursued the issue of Police Department purchasing two new vehicles. Police Chief commented that actually we bought two new cars, one was an undercover car we use for DEA. At this point Rich Girot had spoken for ten minutes.

Karen Buralli 137 Tully, she and her husband own property in Shadow Lakes. Trying to get a shed built, met all the stipulations for Shadow Lakes, turned in the permit, and being denied and doesn't understand why. We are taxpayers just trying to make improvements on our property and being steam rolled and can't do it. The administrator spoke up and advised it wasn't denied, it was suspended. Suspended because of the covenants, and the shed is 10 x 15. Karen said no her shed is 10 x 10. The administrator said may have been some confusion and if the shed is 10 x 10 and not by lake, we should be able to get permit for you. Mayor also asked Administrator to take ride out there and look into this.

No further comments, Public Comment closed at 7:15pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 26, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved as read. Motion made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith, & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor

Mayor advised council that he would like to make an Appointment to the Zoning Board, appointing Michelle Serena as Chair person, and the Re-Appointment of Larry Bennett to the Zoning Board whose appointment expired 10/31/2013 and an Appointment to the Police Pension Board, appointing Jamie Blackwell to that position, replacing member Chuck Van Patter.

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to Appoint Michelle Serena as Zoning Board Chair. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, second by Comm. Smith on Re-Appointment of Larry Bennett to retain his seat on the Zoning Board. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to appoint Jamie Blackwell to the Police Pension Board, replacing Chuck Van Patter's position. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

Administrator
Andy commented on the stakes at the property for Family Dollar, they are coming in hopefully by the end of the week with all their licensing for the construction of their building. They have some permit issues as far as registering some contractors but it's his understanding from office personnel that they intend to start within the next couple of weeks on that site.
The other item the Mayor needs to know is that we may have to increase the Liquor License by one because Capone's wants to come in and get Liquor License for new restaurant that will be hopefully in couple of weeks and looking to get a Class B Liquor License and currently have 3-Class B's and all are out at this time. This should be directed to Attorney to look into.

City Clerk
The City Clerk advised she had two agenda items. The first one is the "Fill the Boot" drive to benefit Muscular Dystrophy which has been done in the past by the Braidwood Fire Department. They have requested Friday, June 12th from 5-8pm, Saturday, June 13th from 1-4pm and Sunday, June 14th 9am-1pm. Clerk requested a motion by council to approve the "Fill the Boot". A motion was made by Comm. Smith, seconded by Comm. Hutton to approve "Fill the Boot" for Muscular Dystrophy. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).
Second agenda item was a brief discussion by First Investors, speakers Jason Eaton and Adam Dziubinski to advise council on what their firm does. They advised the council that they have worked with the previous administration and once they heard of changes to current administration they came in and talked with Clerk and Administrator. Clerk advised them to come to council meeting and give a brief overview as to what had been done in the past. They would like to set up Community Workshops, such as College Planning, Social Security Planning, and Long Term Care Planning. Mayor Vehrs asked them to contact Administrator Andy Galatte to set some Workshops up.

Engineer
Absent.

City Attorney
Attorney Kopman advised the council they are working on an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Coal City relative to the provision of some building inspection services by their building inspector. Their attorney requested some changes in the language which we are working on and should have done by the next council meeting.

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Accounts & Finances
Comm. Hibler was absent. Mayor asked Comm. Hutton to give the report on the payment of bills and payroll. Comm. Hutton made a motion that we pay the total bills in the amount of $189,882.11, seconded by Comm. Smith. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

Comm. Hutton made motion that we pay the Payroll Expenses in the amount of $71,479.20, seconded by Comm. Smith. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

Streets & Public Improvements
Comm. Smith advised the council they are working hard and trying their best with what we have. We have ditches that are stopped up but haven't had manpower to get that done right now, but we will get them cleaned out.

Public Buildings & Property
Comm. Hutton advised that the city is officially on the ECS Powerplay. We filed the W-9 form today so we are officially on the program. This is the program where they wouldn't cut us off power because of possible brown out, we could run the water and sewer plant on a generator and they in turn compensate us every year for being part of this program. This works out to roughly $12,000 a year, in the last 4 yrs. there have been no incidents to switch over generators so has been a good investment for us.
At this time the commissioner read his weekly report. Jim advised the council that he talked with the Mayor and some of the commissioners on pool fills. At this time of year and during summer it gets pretty hectic with people topping their pools off and repairs to pools which in turn delays the billing cycle. The goal is to come up with a rate for filling a pool, make it standardized and simple and should have more to report on at next meeting.
Jim addressed his agenda item regarding the increase in depreciation of the Sewer Plant. I have talked with our Accountant and had them agree upon, instead of a 20-25 yr. life expectancy of the plant, they are now going to rate it up to 45- 50 yrs. life expectancy. This means our depreciation goes from $950,000 per year to around $700,000 which is a great savings to the city. Final numbers aren't in but it's going to be about a $250,000 savings in depreciation which is huge.

At this time the City Clerk read a short note given to her from Comm. Tessler.

Public Health & Safety
Comm. Tessler was absent.
Police Chief Ficarello addressed the council giving a report over the last two weeks in the Police Department; 1 Armed Robbery with warrants for arrests in the Armed Robberies, 10 Car Burglaries. The city council previously approved an Audit of our Evidence Vault to be conducted by an outside agency. Both individuals conducting this audit have extreme experience in Evidence Storage and cataloging. They completed their audit and in the course of the audit they found 2 missing Firearms along with the fact that we need to tighten up our access to the Evidence Vault. Chief's recommendation is that we are only going to allow two individuals that have access to the vault from now on to hopefully tighten up any future losses.

Planning & Zoning Board Report
Nothing to Report.

Executive Session
A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to go into Executive Session at 7:35pm for the purpose of discussing Personnel, pending and/or imminent litigation, collective bargaining/labor relations or land acquisition. Mayor Vehrs also invited Chief Ficarello into Closed Session. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to Reconvene the Regular Scheduled meeting at 8:03pm. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).

Mayor Vehrs advised that at this time there is no action being taken after Executive Session. Hopefully we will have something to report at the next city council meeting about all these Executive Sessions we have been going into with outcome. The Mayor thanked everyone for their patience through all of this.

Old Business
Nothing to Report.

New Business
Nothing to Report.

Adjournment
Comm. Smith made motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Comm. Hutton. Motion approved with 3 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 2 absent (Hibler, Tessler).
Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 23 day of June 2015

_______________ Mayor

Sue Grygiel City Clerk