

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday August 11, 2015 @ 7:00pm

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Public Comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 28, 2015 Regular Meeting

REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor- Motion to give Notice to Cancel Contract between Buxton & City of Braidwood

Administrator- Catholic Church Variance

Clerk-

Engineer-

City Attorney-

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, August 11, 2015
City Council Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Jim Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor asked the Braidwood Police Officers in attendance to lead us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Elected Officials present: Mayor Vehrs, Commissioner Jim Hutton, Commissioner Fay Smith, Commissioner Elena Hibler and Commissioner Eric Tessler.

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.

At this point Mayor Vehrs asked Braidwood Police Officer Terry Craig to approach the council. Comm. Tessler explained that Officer Craig assisted a juvenile he heard screaming while on patrol that was impaled on a fence post after jumping over a privacy fence. Officer Craig immediately contacted Wescom requesting an ambulance to the scene. While waiting for the ambulance Officer Craig physically held the juvenile up in an attempt to minimize further injury. If it wasn't for the quick actions of Officer Craig the juvenile may have sustained fatal injuries. Comm. Tessler then gave Officer Terry Craig an award which read, "On behalf of the City of Braidwood and the Braidwood Police Department we would like to commend Officer Terry Craig for his outstanding police performance in the saving of a human life".

Mayor Vehrs asked our new website creator Ed Ellingham, Owner/Designer of Cloudnine Communications to please address the council and give a presentation of the city's newest Website. Ed explained the feasibility in which people will be able to access this site versus the previous site, easier to update and add to website, more user friendly. Ed explained that trying to access the Braidwood Code Book before was steps and clicks and this site has only one click and you're in the code book.

Public Comment

Robert Snedeker, had prepared some questions for Comm. Tessler that he would like to read then either answer, debate them, etc. Bob addressed Resolution 15-21 that this council approved, the signing of an Agreement with Sgt. Al Soucie which resolved various matters and issues between Al Soucie and the City of Braidwood, with passage of 4-0 vote. He stated that Comm. Tessler voted yes to pass this Resolution after coming back from Executive Session. The Settlement included the Dismissal of the city's appeal of a decision by the Police Commission. Former Police Chief Girot had sought disciplinary action against Al, Police Commission dismissed them all. Girot and former Atty. Scott Pyles filed appeals with the Police Commission in the courts in Will County. Comm. Tessler you agreed to dismiss it then you objected to it. Our current attorney went to the courthouse to dismiss the appeal, Atty. Pyles was there and said he was there representing Girot and had spoken to the Commissioner of Public Health & Safety about the case, which is you Eric Tessler. Pyles said that both Girot and Tessler did not agree to dismiss the appeal. So Pyles was in court on behalf of Girot and yourself and the case is still not dismissed even though the city had signed the Settlement Agreement. Our city is incurring more attorney fees because of you, Rich Girot and Scott Pyles. Bob asked Eric if you agreed to end the case why would you object to your own agreement and continue to put burden on attorney fees and the City of Braidwood taxpayers.

Comm. Tessler spoke at this time, stating that 5 yrs. ago when he got elected he promised that he would do his due diligence and making sure that the grade of cop we have is one that the citizens of Braidwood have here. Unfortunately there has been a lot of turnover in the last 5 yrs. because I have kept my due diligence. We have to let go quite a few good officers. Upon review of the minutes of Soucie's trial I thought there was something there and that's been my due diligence.

No further comments, Public Comment closed at 7:18pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the July 28, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved as read. Motion made by Comm. Smith, seconded by Comm. Hutton. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith, Hibler, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor

The Mayor thanked everyone that attended the National Night Out, there were about 700 people at the City Park. Also thanked all the volunteers who put out an outstanding effort. Chief Ficarello also thanked Tari Atherton, Lynda Miner and the many people who helped organize and it was a big success.

The Mayor then addressed his agenda item regarding the Contract between the City of Braidwood and Buxton. The staff at Buxton has been unresponsive to the request for a face to face meeting and seem to prefer communicating through emails and conference calls. If the City relies on this type of contact to recruit new businesses we will never succeed. Buxton hasn't generated any tangible leads, demonstrated a poor understanding of the business market in Northeastern Illinois. They have no track record in the Chicago area, wherein the City of Crest Hill had similar concerns and recently terminated their contract also with Buxton. Braidwood has had ongoing success over the last several months reaching out and meeting with perspective new businesses without aid or support from Buxton. Buxton has not even come close to justifying the outrageous expense of \$150,000 over three years. Their list of potential interested businesses is to say the least unrealistic.

The Mayor stressed at this point we are making progress with our developers. We have some people looking at the Townes of Braidwood, also a developer out of Bradley that wants to do a development at our property on Main Street. At this point in time people are looking at Braidwood and we can cut the deals with the landowners and they have the pricing for it and realistic in the value I am sure they will be jumping on board with us. We are very close and spending money for a firm like Buxton and don't know what Braidwood is all about. The Mayor requested a motion to cancel the contract between Buxton and the City of Braidwood.

A motion was made by Comm. Smith, seconded by Comm. Hutton to cancel the Buxton Contract. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 3 ayes (Smith, Hutton & Mayor Vehrs), 2 nays (Hibler & Tessler).

Administrator

Andy advised that he gave all the commissioners a copy of the Long Term Recovery Committee Sub-Category Reports for August, this is the committee that he is currently on with Coal City. They had a meeting this morning and the most important part was that people have to register with the Call Center, there is over \$255,000 available now for people affected by the tornado. The Illinois Retailers Association is giving people who register now up to \$500 just to get food, clothing, and medical supplies. They would like everyone to register with the Call Center no matter how large or small their loss is, Berkots has just made a donation, the Red Cross, Salvation Army have also made donations.

Next Andy addressed the variance for the schools which Zoning Chair Michelle Serena is going to address. Michelle advised that they are going to be building a new school on School St. and are having a Public Hearing on the height variance because the new building would be higher than what we currently allow. The school is actually asking for the Public Hearing Fee to be waived by the City of Braidwood. Michelle said that if the city does waive the fee they could possibly have their Hearing at the September Zoning Board Meeting.

Andy advised the council that they need to talk about in the next 3-4 weeks is our position on the Water/Sewer Tap-On Fees. Right now everything is either being cut in half or the costs are being waived, and the dollars that are being waived do not cover the cost of our inspectors doing the inspections. Andy asked the commissioners to meet with him on their direction on how they want to handle he would appreciate it. The city cannot continue to give away the farm and that's what has been happening.

The last thing now that EZ Living easement has finally been dedicated as of August 10, 2015, the city can continue to finish the project. Part of this project is to do an appraisal on the remaining lots that are there. Andy has three different companies that have given him quotes on appraisals from \$1200-\$1500 and the lots being appraised are lots 2,3,4,5, 6. Andy needs direction from the Mayor on which of the three he would like to hire to do appraisals. In order for us to complete the contracts/agreements that previous council started we need to get some fair appraisals.

City Clerk

Nothing to Report.

Engineer

Absent at this meeting.

City Attorney

Nothing to Report. The attorney asked the council if there was going to be any action taken on the request for the Waiver of the Variance Fee. The Administrator advised the council that a motion would be needed to Waive the Variance Fees for the building of a new school, which is normal to waive fees for schools and churches.

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to Waive Variance Fees for the School. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith, Hibler, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS**Accounts & Finances**

Comm. Hibler made a motion to pay the bills on the Check Register in the amount of \$145,695.64 seconded by Comm. Smith. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hibler, Smith, Hutton, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Comm. Hibler made a motion to pay the Payroll Expenses due in the amount of \$74,021.62 seconded by Comm. Smith. Mayor asked for discussion. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hibler, Hutton, Smith, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Streets & Public Improvements

Comm. Smith commented that he will be reporting on anything major, but they are staying busy and have a lot more work than they could ever get done.

Public Buildings & Property

Comm. Hutton gave his weekly report.

Public Health & Safety

Comm. Tessler gave the Chief's report for the last 2 weeks. Comm. Tessler then asked the Attorney if he could look into obtaining a noise ordinance for the city. He doesn't believe the city has one at this time, regarding a decibel level. The PD has received a lot about noise complaints involving a couple of businesses and neighbor complaints. Comm. Tessler said to be fair we are going to get a decibel meter to keep things fair and be able to view decibel level with complainant and to keep the city's hands clean as possible. Commissioner not sure on cost but doesn't believe it should be that much money. The Mayor told him if he would need one for the weekend, Mr. Heberer said we could use theirs.

Planning & Zoning Board Report

Chairman Michelle Serena addressed the council and they did have their meeting on August 3, 2015 and will have the Zoning Board Recommendations ready for the next council meeting.

Administrator Galatte forgot something earlier and Mayor allowed him to speak at this time. Andy received a call today from Priority Staffing. Last Saturday Berkots used council chambers for a Job Fair which they said was very successful. Andy has been getting calls from other corporations that would like to do the same thing here in council chambers and were asking if we were charging a fee. He feels it's a good idea if either he or Comm. Hutton could be here when a Job Fair is being hosted because basically the people in town are going to be offered these jobs. At the last Job Fair there about 25 people here. Companies wanting to host Job Fairs are Priority Staffing in Morris, McDonalds. EZ Living will be having 5-6 positions available also; Technicians, Service.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, seconded by Comm. Smith to go into Executive Session at 7:36pm for the purpose of discussing Personnel, pending and/or imminent litigation, collective bargaining/labor relations or land acquisition. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith, Hibler, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

The Mayor said there will be no action taken following Executive Session.

A motion was made by Comm. Smith, seconded by Comm. Hutton to Reconvene the Regular Scheduled meeting at 8:02. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Smith, Hibler, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Old Business

Comm. Hutton said that McDonalds is interested in a Job Fair as well. Mayor's opinion is we let them come in and no fee charged.

New Business

Nothing to Report.

Adjournment

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

Approved this 25 day of August 2015

Jansquero Mayor

Sue Grogan City Clerk

