

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday September 25, 2018 @ 7:00pm

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment (Comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes per Sect. 2-34(b) of the City's Code of Ord.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -September 11, 2018

REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor-

Administrator-

Clerk-Tag Day Request by RC Panthers Wrestling Team, Sat. Oct. 6 & Mon. Oct. 8, 10-2
Main St. Intersections at Rte. 53 & Rte. 129

Engineer-

City Attorney-

REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Accounts and Finances-Approve Payment of Bills
-Approve Payroll Expenses

Streets & Public Improvements-

Public Property-Motion to Award Water main Replacement on South Walker St. to Brandt Excavating
in the amount of \$76,905

Public Health & Safety-

Planning & Zoning-

Closed Session-Discuss Personnel, Pending and/or Imminent Litigation, Collective Bargaining/Labor
Relations, Land Acquisition or Review of Closed Session Minutes.

-Actions to be taken following Closed Session: Motion to Approve & Release
Closed Session Minutes

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 25, 2018

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Vehrs asked Sgt. Goodwin to lead everyone in 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 Kopman, City Clerk Sue Grygiel, Sgt. Goodwin in absence of Chief Nick Ficarelo and City Administrator Don Labriola were present. City Engineer Todd Gereaux was absent.

Public Comment

Opened at 7:00pm.

Bill Rulien, 187 E. Main St. Bill commented that according to the city's Accounting System, at the end of February the city had over a negative \$300,000 in the MFT Account and spent over \$500,000 out of the MFT Account. He questioned where did you find the \$800,000. Then said according to Bank Statements at the end of July, the city bounced (9) checks totaling \$46,000 and yet around \$2.1 million in various Banks. Bill then stated that Jim Hutton always tried to keep about \$700,000 set aside to meet his EPA obligations. That left about \$1.4 million and said the city has pledged more than that for the Hotel, Warren's Body Shop and infrastructure improvements for the Townes of Braidwood. Bill said that there's an IEPA Loan of around \$500,000 due in December. Bill then said the Police Department has (5) separate checking accounts and how is it that the expenditures out of these accounts are not approved by the city council? He also said the Audit seems to be very overdue. So the questions for the Mayor are: Why does the Police Department have (5) separate Bank accounts and who oversees these accounts, Who approves the purchases of Police Vehicles, Where did the \$800,000 in MFT Funds come from, Why did the (9) checks bounce, When will the Audit results be available? Bill then gave a copy of his questions to the Mayor.

Closed at 7:03pm. .

Approval of Minutes

Comm. Smith made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2018, seconded by Comm. Hutton. Motion approved 4 ayes, 0 nays (Smith, Hutton, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs) 1 Abstain (Hibler).

REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor

The Mayor thanked all the volunteers who came out on "Family Day" this past Saturday. It was a great turn out. Mayor reminded everyone that Deer Season starts October 6th and reminded everyone to be cautious at this time of year especially in the more rural areas. The Mayor advised that on November 9th,

the Friday before Veterans Day, there will be a breakfast here at city hall from 9am-11am to honor our Veterans. The Mayor then read a thank you note from residents, thanking both he and the Street Commissioner for fixing potholes on Charles Drive and now they're very happy they have a pothole free road.

Administrator

Nothing to Report.

City Clerk

The clerk addressed her Agenda item, a Tag Day request from the RC Panthers Wrestling Team on Saturday October 6 & Monday October 8, both days 10am-2pm. The city clerk then asked for a motion to be entertained.

Comm. Smith made a motion to approve the RC Panthers Wrestling Team to hold a Tag Day on Saturday October 6th and Monday October 8th from 10am-2pm, seconded by Comm. Hibler. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Smith, Hibler, Hutton, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Engineer

Absent.

City Attorney

Nothing to Report.

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 \$106,613.77, seconded by Comm. Smith. Motion approved with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hibler, Smith, Hutton, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Comm. Hibler made a motion to approve the Payroll Expenses in the amount of \$138,477.18, seconded by Comm. Smith. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hibler, Smith, Hutton, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Streets & Public Improvements

Comm. Smith advised the council that the street repair on West Cermak was worse than they thought. All the pipe underground had to be replaced. We packed it real good with excess road grindings which works better than dirt and gravel. Comm. Smith also said they should be able to get blacktop on it before winter.

Public Property

Comm. Hutton advised everyone that they had a Bid Opening on September 10th for the South Walker Street Water Main Project. There were (4) bidders and Brandt Excavating out of Morris was the low bidder in the amount of \$76,905.

Comm. Hutton made a motion to award the South Walker St. Water Main Project to Brandt Excavating in the amount of \$76,905, seconded by Comm. Hibler. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Hutton, Hibler, Smith, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

Comm. Hutton said they had Raschke Welding come to the plant yesterday and welded up #2 Clarifier Arm, #1 broke, so took it down and had it cleaned up, welding the brackets on the arm where the bolts weren't holding. Comm. Hutton said he talked with the Mayor yesterday about the roof on the pole barn behind city hall and the one at the Zoo. He said he got a price to get them both fixed to stop the leaks at a price of \$4,500. Next he discussed the water tower at the Treatment Plant. He said they solicited prices on it to wash it and the low price came in at \$4,900. Comm. Hutton then talked about the bid that was put out

for Well#2 on Lincoln St., has been awarded to Great Lakes and will possibly be here tomorrow. They're going to pull the well and pump to see what's wrong and hoping to have put back together within (5) days. Comm. Hutton said he talked with the attorney about surplus some things down at the plant. We're going to put a list together for attorney review and then put on the next council meeting Agenda. Comm. Hutton gave the Plant Crews Report then gave the Outside Crews Report.

Public Health & Safety

Comm. Tessler gave the numbers report provided by Sgt. Goodwin who was sitting in for the Chief, from 9/11/18- 9/25/18. Their total calls for service for this time period were 214. Comm. Tessler then talked about something that was brought to light to him by his wife through social media. The commissioner said he's discussed this issue with the Chief and Sgt. Goodwin and feel we need to shed a lot more light on it. His wife showed him last week and again this morning a story of two citizens, both female and at the time they were both by themselves and one with a child. Both of these individuals felt threatened, felt like they were being followed. Both felt like they might be getting set up to be a victim of a crime. Of what crime don't know you can only think that possibly a kidnapping, mugging nobody knows. He said with some research that he's done this morning because this kind of frightened him so to speak and said who would of thought we'd have this issue in Braidwood. With the technology we have with us being so connected, worried about our phones through social media or just the news in general, he just wants everyone to take a second and realize what's around you, what's changing around you. If you see something you don't like make sure to say something! In this situation he recommends to not get out of the situation, go directly to a police station. Do not drive to your home, a relative's home, dial 911 and drive to the police station if in this situation. Do not take this issue lightly he stressed. He said he's going to talk with the Chief and Sgt. after this meeting, we're a little light on staff but we're going to add a few more PT Officers to keep patrolling our streets and we will continue to patrol our streets. Sgt. Goodwin was the Officer on duty when the situation happened and he's gone through tapes which is still ongoing. Comm. Tessler stressed again that this is not going to be taken lightly and we are not going to stand for this! We are going to adapt to and address this issue and do our best to mitigate the issue.

Planning & Zoning

No Report.

Closed Session

Comm. Tessler made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:18pm to review Closed Session Minutes and possible action to release these Closed Session Minutes, seconded by Comm. Smith. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Tessler, Smith, Hibler, Hutton and Mayor Vehrs).

Comm. Smith made a motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 7:33pm, seconded by Comm. Hutton. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Smith, Hutton, Hibler, Tessler & Mayor Vehrs).

At this time Action was taken after Closed Session.

Comm. Tessler made a motion, he moved that the portions of the Closed Session Minutes from 7/14/15, 11/22/16 and 7/11/17 as indicated on the minutes we reviewed, no longer require confidential treatment and that the same shall be available for public inspection and that those portions of the minutes so indicated by redactions still required that the same be treated as confidential and shall remain so at this time, seconded by Comm. Smith. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays (Tessler, Smith, Hibler, Hutton and Mayor Vehrs).

Old Business

Comm. Tessler questioned updates on the (2) homes he brought up a few meetings ago. First asked about the house next to the Fire Department. The city clerk advised they were taking trees down today and had issue with wires down.

He then asked about the house on the corner of Main & Office. The city clerk advised that Donna has been working with Code Enforcement on this one. Comm. Tessler then said there was another one on South Cook Street. The Mayor advised that this home just went in to Foreclosure and we're in the process of working with the Bank to put a Lien on it and get it cleaned up.

New Business

Comm. Smith asked where they're working on sidewalks is that the State? He said he knew nothing about it. The Mayor explained they were released with the State, they're working on sidewalk corners on State Routes like Route 113, also on Route 53. Everything has to be ADA compliant and the Mayor told him that's all they're doing. Comm. Hutton said he's noticed a couple of different tree services in town over the last (2) weeks, taking a lot of trees down. The city clerk said that Com Ed has vendors in town trimming trees over wires for them.

Adjournment

Comm. Tessler made motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:36pm, seconded by Comm. Smith. Motion approved with 4 ayes, 0 nays (Tessler, Hutton, Smith & Mayor Vehrs) 1 Absent (Hibler).

Approved this 9th day of October 2018

James A. Velms Mayor
Sue Grunil City Clerk

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

