

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:00pm

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|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | | | |
| II. | Pledge of Allegiance | | | |
| III. | Roll Call by City Clerk | Doug Money | Warren Wietting | Dale Walsh |
| | | | Karen Hart | |

- 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.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion to Approve Minutes of the Tuesday, October 24, 2023 Regular Meeting**

VI. REPORTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

- A. Mayor**
1. Mayoral Appointment of Deborah Jackson a member to the City of Braidwood Plan Commission with a term to expire on November 14, 2025
 2. Motion to approve the appointment of Deborah Jackson as a member to the City of Braidwood Plan Commission with a term to expire on November 14, 2025
- B. Administrator**
1. Motion to Approve an Ordinance 23-12 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property.
- C. Clerk**
1. Motion to Approve Ordinance 23-13 Amending the designed Holiday Observations in 2023 for the Corporate Authorities for the City of Braidwood.
 2. Announce the change of second Council Meeting in December to Wednesday, December 27, 2023.
 3. Motion to Approve Ordinance 23-14 Designating Meeting Dates and Times and Holiday Observations in 2024 for the Corporate Authorities and Plan Commission for the City of Braidwood.
- D. Engineer**
- E. City Attorney**

VII. REPORTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

- A. Accounts and Finances**
1. Approve Payment of Bills \$599,911.25
 2. Approve Payroll \$83,550.58 and \$95,001.82
 3. The estimated 2023 Property Tax Levy is \$1,909,630.36, which is less than 105% of the amount of property taxes actually extended the preceding year. The 2023 Property Tax Levy is proposed for final action at the City's December 12, 2023 regular meeting."
- B. Streets and Public Improvements**
- C. Public Buildings & Property**
- D. Public Health & Safety**
- E. Planning & Zoning**

1. Next Meetings are November 30, 2023 and also December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion to go into executive session to discuss (i) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)) and (ii) pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the City (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11))

B. Motion to close executive session

- XI.** Next City Council Meeting is Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00pm

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Braidwood City Hall 141 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council on November 14, 2023 was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Hart in the Council Chambers of the Braidwood City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Hart 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: Commissioner Money, Commissioner Wietting, Commissioner Walsh, and Mayor Hart

Absent:

Appointed Officials:

Present: City Clerk Weaver, City Administrator Altiery, Chief Goodwin, and City Attorney Wellner

Absent: City Engineer Dave Weber

Quorum: There being sufficient members of the corporate authorities in attendance to constitute a quorum, the meeting was declared in order.

Public Comment: Kim Ormond; 667 W Third St: I am here to ask the city council to enforce any burning ordinances that are currently in force and to improve the ones that already exist. I have lived in Braidwood for over 25 years and while the fall has always been difficult for people with asthma and other breathing difficulties due to the burning that goes on, I have never seen it this bad. I personally have asthma and after the insane levels of smoke this year, my lungs feel as though I have been breathing acid. My throat is sore and I have headaches that don't go away. Yesterday I was so sick due to the smoke I could not work, and instead was in bed all day. I can only imagine how people with COPD or emphysema are suffering. For people with breathing issues, this air pollution can be deadly. I understand that people enjoy their bonfires, however there needs to be some limits. If someone wants to have a bonfire every single day, that is not acceptable. You cannot smoke out your neighbors like that. During the past 4 days there has only been about a half day when the air was clear and breathable near my home. The rest of the time my area of the block has been filled with never-ending smoke. One evening it was so thick, it looked as though a fog had settled over my home. Today, this afternoon, was the first time that I could step outside without being engulfed in toxic residue for a few hours. Unfortunately, I left my home at 4pm to run an errand and by the time I came back at 5, the air was filled with smoke yet again. This is insanity. There is one property in particular on my block which has been burning prolifically, including all summer long. The person who purchased the property runs a landscaping business out of it, and to my knowledge no one lives there. It is only used as storage for the business' trucks and other equipment. It appears they are using the property in a residential area for the burning of their landscape waste and forcing other people who actually live here to breathe in their pollution. This cannot possibly be legal. I often cannot spend time in my yard due to the smoke and certainly cannot open my window during nice weather. Clean, breathable air is a basic human right, and nobody has the right to take this away from the residents of this town, including a business owner who would rather harm his neighbors than spend the

money to lawfully dispose of his waste. My lungs shouldn't be at a disadvantage because he wants to save a few bucks on his business. Other neighbors have actually complained to the city about this but nothing has been done. He continues to burn. It is time the city stepped up and took action. I have not had to purchase asthma medication in decades, but due to the smoke coming from this property this summer I had to start taking them. They are not cheap, and I shouldn't have to suffer both physically and financially because a business owner would prefer to force me to be harmed than engage in ethical business practices and dispose of his waste legally. This behavior is depriving me of the right to the peaceful enjoyment of my property. Since the window of homes are not designed to be hermetically sealed, the smoke gets inside our living spaces, making escape from the toxic residue impossible. It gets in my hair, clothing, furniture. I have a dog and when I let her out, she stinks of the smoke. It's nauseating. I have an expensive air filter and it has been going off non-stop. It can't keep up with the smoke however and my home reeks of the smell. Please take action. I should not have to file lawsuits against my neighbor because of this.

Chris Earling; 180 N Mitchell St: Over the last three weeks, I have been out knocking on doors for political purpose in Braidwood. I have been hitting all the North/South Streets. I have made it all the way over to English. English Street is the last street for District 40 area. So, I have knocked on a lot of doors and met a lot of people, talked to a lot of people. Honestly, doing what I have been doing the last three weeks, trying to help my wife, and a few other people here in town that are running for some political offices. It has been interesting, to say the least. I am amazed at the amount of people that don't answer their door. Clearly, they are home, their door is wide open and sitting on the couch; I had one guy wave at me and doesn't even come to the door to talk. Those that do come to the door, I got responses to; just not interested in political; that's fine, I understand. But I also had people ask me who is your representative? Then we get into a discussion and they say they are not going to vote against him, but two seconds ago you didn't even know who it was. Sometimes it becomes comical. Part of the reason I am up here, my wife and I are out there because we are in the middle, independent people. We actually vote cross party, we do that because we feel we are choosing who are best for us, not democrat, not republican. We are actually trying to promote a choice on a ballot and hopefully some change. We want everyone to come to the table and discuss our issues and hope to walk away with a solution. I get laughed at when I say that but it's the honest truth. It's what we used to do. I know I have a hard head and take a hard stance on issues and I don't hide that but I do compromise when we are face to face and have adult conversations. I am asking the voters especially the ones of Braidwood here to please stop using Facebook as the right way to fix things, spread words, rumors, before things even get off the ground. We are having a growth spurt, no doubt about it. I met a couple, Ricky and Jessica Ortiz on Division. Ricky is here sitting in the back. They bought a brand-new home on Division. It's no hidden fact that my dislike for our out-sourced code enforcement inspector, but this builder that is building the four homes on Division, the Ortiz family is another example how I don't think our code enforcement is working when, I met Jessica and Ricky, I was there talking to them for five minutes. I am not a house builder, just an average Joe, but it took me five minutes to walk around and talk to them about the issues they are having with their house. It's a shame that they are brand-new neighbors, brand-new house, and if we are going to allow builders to come into Braidwood here, we should hold them to a higher standard. We want good built homes; they shouldn't be having the problems that they are having with a brand-new house. If we are going to be adding rooftops to grow our population to attract businesses then we have to get a handle on the builders and their building. Maybe we need to start doing better background checks on the builder and vet them a little bit before we start handing out permits to start building. I say that with a grain of salt, because I have never bought a new home, I am not exactly sure the whole process behind it. Maybe their lender pushed them in to closing the house sooner than they should of. I feel bad for them because they are now fighting

with the builder, the builder is ignoring them completely. I mean it's a brand-new house, you go and buy a brand-new car it comes with some sort of warranty or something to back it up. It seems like these people are being left out to dry with a brand-new house. They are talking about getting a lawyer together and more money out of their pocket. As the city, I am not sure if we can do anything help out this situation, I don't know. In the future, I am ashamed that they are going through that with a brand-new home. I would like to ask, as the city, whether it be you guys or everybody; everybody in this town should be backing these people or anybody who's building a home. If we are going to be allowing builders to come in and put new rooftops in our town, it shouldn't just be "Joe Smo's Builder" and go get four buddies together and pop up some houses for a profit. I think they should be vetted a bit better, again I am not sure how that process works with the city here with builders. All I know is that these people need some help and as far as I know their neighbor is having the same issues. There are two other houses next door to them, I am not sure if they have been sold yet or still up for sale. Maybe somebody needs to go over there and stop the builder from working on the other two homes and fix the two that are already having issues before he finishes them two. Just a concerned citizen for another fellow resident that needs some help. I want to say thanks to a lot of the people that I have talked to like Samantha Mercer and her husband. They were great people to talk to. Nicole Shores, I actually really appreciate. Nicole Shores, somebody go steal her phone, take her computer, whatever take that woman off Facebook because actually when you talk to her face to face, she is a decent person to talk to. She has really great ideas, more numbers in that woman's head that anybody should every have in their head. She has some really great ideas that I think we could possibly implement here, paperwork wise, that we could follow along with. There is a lot of information out there that needs to be brought to us and we are just asking for a little bit more information, that's all. I think that all Nicole is asking for, she just hollers at it a little too, she is a little harsh at it I am not going to lie. Everybody on Facebook, yelling and screaming, start coming to the meetings here and let's start talking about it here again instead of using a platform to air out our differences. Appreciate it. Thank you.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Walsh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to approve meeting minutes from the Tuesday, October 24, 2023. Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried with 3 ayes: 0 nays; 1 Abstain (Wietting, Walsh, and Hart)

Mayor's Report: I am pleased to appoint Deborah Jackson a member to the City of Braidwood Plan Commission with a term to expire on November 14, 2025. I will need a motion to approve that appointment: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walsh, to approve Deborah Jackson to the City of Braidwood Plan Commission with a term to expire on November 14, 2025. Motion carried with 4 ayes: 0 nays: (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart). Deborah is here and I would like for her to stand up so you know who she is.

Administrator Report: I am looking for a motion to approve an Ordinance 23-12 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property. Before we get a motion going, I would like to explain that myself, working with Dale and Warren, and the guys down there. We are working on cleaning up down at the plant, we are finding parts and different things that are just lying around that we need to get rid of. We have some empty containers that had polymer in them which is a part of what they use at the plant, it is not dangerous to anybody. We have a couple portable road signs that were given to us fifteen to twenty years ago that have been sitting in the back. A one-ton dump that has not seen service as long as I know, a couple parts for skid-steers, some old trailers that were in the back forty. We are looking at either selling them or scraping them, a lot of this stuff is just scrap but if we can turn around and sell it and make a little bit of money that would be great. Commissioner Wietting made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Money, to approve Ordinance 23-12 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property. Motion carried with 4 ayes: 0 nays: (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart).

I have a reminder that we will be having a CMAP meeting at the Library on November 30 from 6-8 pm. They will have finger food and snacks, stuff like that. They are looking for input from the city people, residents, thoughts on what areas might work better for different zoning.

The Ford/Chevy development will be coming to the zoning board on November 29. The basis on that one is that it is already zoned Industrial, nothing has changed on that. All they are doing is putting the corner pins in know what lots are where and where the roads are going.

We are starting to review the current city handbook to bring all the codes up to more current codes.

City Clerk Report: I need a motion to approve Ordinance 23-13 amending the Designated Holiday Observations in 2023 for the Corporate Authorities for the City of Braidwood. The reason for this change is to be in line with the unions and we all observe the same scheduled holidays off. All the dates are approved the year before just like in the next ordinance we are approving for next year. So, that is why we are amending for this year and just changing a couple days. Commissioner Walsh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Money to approve Ordinance 23-13 Amending the Designated Holiday Observation in 2023 for the Corporate Authorities for the City of Braidwood. Motion carried with 4 ayes: 0 nays: (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart).

I am also asking for a motion to approve Ordinance 23-14 Designating Meeting dates and Times and Holiday Observation in 2024 for the Corporate Authorities and Plan Commission for the City of Braidwood. Some of these dates already fall on holidays and have been noted and already changed accordingly as needed. That does not mean that these dates won't change in the future but for now these are the dates we have planned out for 2024. Commissioner Wietting made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walsh to approve Ordinance 23-14. Motion carried with 4 ayes: 0 nays: (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart).

Couple more things, I just want to let everyone know, I know it was all over Facebook, we had a solicitors permit that were issued to some individuals from Residents Energy. Anyone out soliciting, they all should have a badge with their picture issued from the City of Braidwood. They said they were going to be in town until November 24. I just want to note, all solicitors must apply at the City of Braidwood and have a background check by our police department before they are issued any permits and IDs.

Lastly, I have is anyone interested in the 13th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade, we have application here at City Hall and on our Facebook page. The theme this year is "ICE CASTLES." If you do have any questions concerning this please reach out to Angie Hutton or Jessica Keymon, their information is on the flyers.

Engineer Report: Absent

City Attorney Report: None

Accounts & Finance Report: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to approve the Payment of Bills, in the amount of \$599,911.25 as identified in the Accounts Payable General Ledger dated November 14, 2023. Before we take a vote, I would like to explain what it is. The \$599,000 includes \$350,242.09 which includes our EPA payment for the sewer plant that we make twice a year and also, we are upgrading SCADA at the water/sewer plant and that includes the \$71,641.80 for the SCADA updates. That is why the number is as large as it is. Motion carried with 4 ayes: 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart)

Commissioner Money then made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to Approve Payroll Expenses, in the amount of \$83,550.58 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated October 27, 2023. This payroll also includes normal payroll plus the outgoing police chief's last two days in the amount of \$583.10. Motion carried with 4 ayes; 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart).

Commissioner Money then made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to Approve Payroll Expenses, in the amount of \$95,001.82 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated November 10, 2023. This payment also includes the payment of \$8,800.00 police stipend that is paid once a year. Motion carried with 4 ayes; 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart).

Lastly, the estimated 2023 Property Tax Levy is \$1,909,630.36, which is less than 105% of the amount of property taxes actually extended the preceding year. The 2023 Property Tax Levy is proposed for final action at the City's December 12, 2023 regular meeting.

Streets & Public Improvement Report: None

Public Property Report: Like Doug was talking about the SCADA is about 90% complete, I believe that payment was 90% of what they have done already with 10% remaining for all the little glitches that they have to work out in that system.

The guys have fixed several pumps in the past couple months and they are just doing a good job keeping up on the little incidences that happen. My hats off to the city crew, Rob and his guys.

Public Health & Safety Report: Chief Goodwin: This the police activity from October 23 to November 13, 2023. The total number of calls for service was 321. There were 23 case reports generated. Total subjects arrested were 3 and total arrest charges were 4. The total number of traffic stops were 127 resulting in 27 citations, 74 written warnings and a total of 20 local ordinance P-tickets written. Out of the 20 P-tickets, 10 were issued to trucks.

Planning & Zoning Report: Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00pm. There is one also on December 4.

Old Business: None

New Business: Commissioner Walsh: The Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition was one of fifteen Blue Ribbon Coalitions to be honored by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the ONDCP. At the drug free community 25th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, D.C. on October 30, for achieving measurable community level outcomes in youth substance use prevention. The coalition could not have achieved this recognition without the support of their community partners. In appreciation of their partners the BAHCC would like to share their Certificate of Achievement on a rotating basis over the next year or so. The coalition hopes the City of Braidwood would proudly be the first to display this recognition of our community's great accomplishment. These folks do a wonderful job, it's a tough job too, to educate these kids at the schools for drug prevention and substance abuse. So, this the plaque that was honored, they were with Senator Grassley from Iowa during that meeting. I also have the agenda sitting here if anyone wants to look at it from the meeting. It was great, there were three out of the fifteen Blue Ribbon recipients were from Illinois. This is nationwide, so I thought that was pretty great. I am proud of the three people that attended were Tori Loomis, she was a former student at Reed-Custer, Chad Klover, the principal of Reed-Custer High School, and Pete Dell'Aquila. Congratulations to the three of them. We are going to display this on the "Wall of Fame" here, according to the mayor. I think eventually it will make its way to the schools to be displayed there.

We are going to have the third of three scheduled Town Halls, two weeks from tonight at 6:00pm. Then we will have our meeting after. They have been well received; it is an open forum to talk to our city administrator. At the last meeting it was pretty much anybody that was here, commissioners also, if you want to ask questions. Come here with your questions, we will write them down, if you run out of questions, I will have questions from people online also. Maybe we can stop some rumors that are going around.

Mayor Hart: The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to adjourn the November 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Braidwood City Council. Motion carried with 4 ayes: 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart) The next regular meeting of the Council will be held Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00pm

Approved this 28 Day of November, 2023.

 Mayor

 City Clerk

