

Doug Money

Warren Wietting
Karen Hart

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, December 12, 2023 at 7:00pm

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Braidwood City Hall 141 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Braidwood City Council on November 28, 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, City Attorney Wellner, and City Engineer Weber

Absent:

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: At the last council meeting I spoke about how the smoke from burning debris has been affecting me and which surely is affecting anyone else who has breathing issues, or simply is tired of reeking of smoke each time they leave their home. I asked the city council to enforce the ordinances and also spoke about a landscaping business on our block which has been burning debris. After the council meeting, I was told the city would look into this and that I would receive follow up communication, but it might be a week or two later. I was fine with waiting, but received no follow up and haven't spoken with anyone. Instead, today on the city's Facebook page, a citizen asked about the concerns I had expressed. The city's response was to say, "The concerns were followed up on and were unfounded." Unfounded. This is unacceptable. To dismiss me in a public post without any follow up with me makes a mockery of me and my breathing issues. It also makes a mockery of the others on my block who complained to city hall in person about the smoke. When you have people from several different households complaining, there is definitely an issue, and our concerns should not be written off publicly as unfounded. In addition to the issues from the landscaper's property, there was so much burning in my neighborhood in general there were weeks when the air wasn't clear for even a 24-hour period. One of my neighbors had guests over and they said the air was so thick with smoke they could not even see halfway down the block when driving. There have been times when the smoke was so thick it was like a fog. Is this unfounded also? Has the city just decided that my neighbors and myself as suffering from mass psychosis, smelling and seeing smoke that isn't there? There have been nights I could not sleep because the sound of my own wheezing kept me awake. Did I imagine this also? This can't just be dismissed like this, this is wrong.

Chris Earling, 180 N Mitchell St.: Mayor, you brought it up about you want people to show up to the meetings and all over Facebook it sounds like we are going to have over a thousand people show up. I highly doubt that, everybody will just stay on Facebook and bitch. I want to ask are you all prepared for the amount of people that may show up? Because the last time we had a meeting there was a whole crowd standing at the door yelling and screaming. Are we going to have some orderly on this meeting? Just looking at the number of seats here now, is there going to be enough seats? I am a very early person, listen to a lot of AM radio stations, recently I got a report from WJOL, 1340 AM, Channahon. Channahon got an issue with another truck stop being proposed, they had to cancel the meeting because well over a hundred people showed up to that meeting and they didn't have enough seating for everybody. They had to cancel and postpone it and try to find a bigger place to accommodate the amount of people that are wanting to show up. I am just asking, are you guys prepared, do we have more seats? Are we going to be able to have discussions at the microphone and at the table instead of screaming at the door? Wanted to point that out, just wanted to be ready for it.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walsh, to approve meeting minutes from the November 14, 2023. Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes: 0 nays, 0 Abstain (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart)

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hart: I would like the Chief to come up and respond to Kim's question. Chief Goodwin: Ma'am I tried on a couple occasions; I came to your house to speak to you. This is my business card so I can discuss this with you. Kim Ormond: I just want to say that dismissing me on a public post on Facebook is unacceptable. Mayor: I don't know who did that, and I apologize for it. Kim Ormond: Whoever it was, they need to resign.

Mayor: Next piece of business, I would like to announce that I am appointing Ronald Wilczak Sr. as Commissioner of Public Health and Safety. I am requesting a motion to approve the appointment Ronald Wilczak as Commissioner of Public Health and Safety. Commissioner Wietting made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Money to approve appointment of Ronald Wilczak Sr as Commissioner of Public Health and Safety. Motion carried with 4 ayes, 0 nays, (Money, Wietting, Walsh, and Hart) Ron Wilczak took his oath in the council chambers and then Commissioner Ron Wilczak took his seat at the council table at 7:16 p.m.

I am also requesting a motion for Ordinance 23-15 Authorizing the Mayor of Braidwood to Enter into and Execute and Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Braidwood and Reed-Custer Community Unit School District No. 255U Regarding a Police Resource Officer. Commissioner Wilczak made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walsh to Approve Ordinance 23-15. Motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak, and Hart)

Administrator Report: Tony Altieri: Do I have anybody here from CMAP? They were going to do a presentation to let everybody know what is going on, if they could make it. Reminder, the CMAP is Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. There will be a wealth of information. What everybody needs to know is that the comprehensive plan that they draw up is not an ordinance that we have to follow by law. They do this for a living, they go to towns, Wilmington is doing it also, they give you the what, where, why, and when they feel will be in our best interest. They are going to see if they can help us along with it. This is about a \$180,000 project, the city had to put in \$12,000 to kickstart it the rest is part of a federal funding.

Secondly, I can't remember your name, I am terrible with names, I am the one that posted on Facebook. I personally and the mayor drove by your house. I drove by their fifteen times. The mayor and I drove up and down the streets looking for the fires or some kind of smoke. We did stop and talk to neighbors. Not one other neighbor or person said that they had an issue with smoke. I did knock on your door; you were not there. Every resident is just as important, I may have responded to what Mrs. Bobal

wanted because I couldn't get ahold of you. I had code enforcement officer driving by, I had him sit there for an hour one day trying to find anywhere the smoke is coming from. Out of three to four people, no one was able to find it. Kim Ormond: Like I said my neighbor said they had guests over and the smoke was so thick they couldn't see half way down the block. There were times I let my dog out at two o'clock in the morning and the street light just outside my house was surrounded in fog because the smoke is so bad. You can talk to my next-door neighbor and he can tell you also. I know for a fact that couple of people on my block have actually gone to city hall and complained. Altiery: I am at city hall every day of the week and it has never come to my attention. Kim Ormond: One of my neighbors said he had spoken with you. Altiery: I would have to find out because I follow up on everything. I go there Saturdays and Sundays; I may work during the week but I drove by your house seven days that week after. Had code enforcement drive by and I asked the chief he could check it out. Kim Ormond: What time are you driving by? Altiery: It is anywhere from six in the morning to ten at night. Kim Ormond: It seems to be worse in the evening. Altiery: I believe the chief would do the same this, as it is happening, please call the police station at that time. We did our due diligence, you were never wrote off, but I can't write this lady off. Kim Ormond: But to say on Facebook, publicly that it was unfounded. Altiery: Unfounded means we were not able to find any smoke, fire, issues, anything. So, it was unfounded. We were not able to find that smoke you were talking about. I would love to be able to say, yup, we found it, we got it. I went on the landscaper's property, I called them and asked if they are bringing anything on the property and doing any burning. They said no, I believe the mayor even asked them. Kim Ormond: I have neighbors that have witnessed it. Chief Goodwin: Ma'am just call me. When it is happening, just call us and an officer will come and observe it for themselves and we can deal with it immediately. Just call, please. Kim Ormond: In the first few weeks in November and the last week of October, there wasn't a 24-hour period there wasn't smoke. Altiery: The night you left here, I drove by your house. Everybody's complaint is researched. Nobody has ever passed by. The next day the Mayor and I spent over an hour and talked to people. Neighbors that were directly behind you, the lady that lives behind you and down further. Kim Ormond: What lady that lives behind me? Altiery: There is a tri-level back there. I don't think it is exactly behind you, it has brown brick, we stopped there and talked to them. Kim Ormond: I wonder if you have the right house. Altiery: I know where you live because I came to your house when you were having issues with your contractor. Kim Ormond: Behind me is the senior housing projects. Altiery: Then it's one or two over from there. What I am saying is that we stopped in the area and talked to people and we did not have anyone tell us that there has been an issue. In my opinion, when you drive by after someone has burned you can smell it in the air, it doesn't go away. Like I said, please call. Kim Ormond: That weird because when I let my dog out it is constant and constantly during that time period. I have had neighbors who have complained at city hall. So, I don't know why you are not smelling anything and that it can be like a fog where you can't even see down the street. Mayor Hart: Kim, I think the best thing you can do is call the police department at the time it occurs. Don't wait until the next day, they are a 24-7 police department and there will be someone out there to see.

City Clerk Report: Weaver: I just want to let everybody know from our last council meeting when council approved the dates for the holiday days off, we have to adjust the second meeting in December, because we will be closed that Tuesday, so the meeting will be Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 7p.m.

Also, for the month of December, the food panty will be giving out ham dinners to those who come in on Tuesday from 8a.m. to noon. And also, if anyone needs a pre-lite Christmas tree or some decorations the food panty does have about a dozen trees, they are giving out to anybody or families in need who cannot afford a tree or decorations. Just ask at the food pantry they do have stuff for you there.

Reminder that the lighted parade is this Saturday it will be after the ceremony lighting of the tree, it will be around 5:00 p.m. and the parade will immediately follow. There are flyers on the table about that.

From our building department, if anybody has any open permits, please make sure if you need any finals to have them called in so the permits can be closed out by the end of the year. Just get a hold of Shelly of you are not sure, she will be glad to help.

Engineer Report: Dave Weber: The only thing I would like to report Warren is; were you going to speak on Well 2? Comm. Wietting: Yes, I was, but go ahead and fill in. Weber: Well number 2 historically has had a capacity of about 200 gallons a minute over the course of time that has diminished. As of late, it has severely diminished to almost half of what it is supposed to produce. In an emergency situation in assistance with the utilities department, we had Water Well Solutions come out to pull the pump and pull the pipe. It ended up that there was galvanized pipe in that well and the threading's at where pipes connect had created a hole, which was essentially squirting water. We were losing capacity. Water Wells Solution has taken the galvanized pipe, was going to inspect it and see what portions of that can be put back in. They are going to make recommendations on what to do so solve the pipe problem. They are also going to inspect the pump that they pulled. So, we are putting a pump back in the ground with the greatest potential. That was somewhat of an emergency situation, so we hired them out to come out and investigate and they had the equipment to do it. The city has worked with them quite frequently so they have historical knowledge. We don't have the results back yet from what they have found but we did find the obvious source of the problem. We will be maintaining that well and make a recommendation and let us know what they find. Mayor Hart: Just to clarify for me, we will not be able to use that well at this point in time? Weber: That is correct. Comm. Wietting: There enough volume from the other wells to help sustain the whole community without any problem.

City Attorney Report:

Accounts & Finance Report: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to approve the Payment of Bills, in the amount of \$84,825.93 as identified in the Accounts Payable General Ledger dated November 28, 2023. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak, and Hart) Commissioner Money then made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to Approve Payroll Expenses, in the amount of \$92,135.96 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated November 24, 2023. Which includes raises for the office workers and back pay which is retro-active pay from May 1st, 2023. Motion carried with 5 ayes; 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak, and Hart). Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to approve Payroll Expenses for Treatment Plant Annual Certification Incentive Pay, in the amount of \$6,750.00 as identified in the Payroll General Ledger dated November 24, 2023. Mayor Hart: Excuse me before we vote, can you explain that? Comm. Wietting: This from their certificates that comes around every year. Comm. Money: It is a stipend that the treatment operators get every year on top of their pay. It is based on the level of qualifications. They take tests to be qualified and it is a tiered qualification. As they rise, they get a bigger stipend. This covers three people in the treatment plant that have certifications. Motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak, and Hart).

Streets & Public Improvement Report: Comm. Dale Walsh: I get notes from Scott Howard, the foreman of the streets crew, what they do on a daily basis. Right now, they are getting everything ready for winter. Winterizing all the summer equipment. Which is great, that was one of the things I wanted to do when I ran. Maintain the equipment we buy with the city's money, with your money, that is important.

Public Property Report: Comm. Warren Wietting: I would like to thank Dale for the great job he is doing with the crew down there. That was something that was lacking in the city, we had all this big dollar equipment and at one time there was not any maintenance records. We didn't know who did what, the guys are on a maintenance schedule now. All this equipment that the city owns now is on a maintenance schedule which is so important. About the well they are working on, there has been a lot of thought and talk put into this with the engineers and the staff making sure this was a good option to do at

this time. Make sure we have plenty of capacity even though we are working on a well, there was a lot that went into that before we just pulled the well and start repairs. Comm. Walsh: I do have a question on the well. Where is that well located? Engineer Weber: It's by the park. Liz Dixon: By the kiddie park, right by our house on Lincoln Street. Almost to the end of Lincoln.

Public Health & Safety Report: Comm. Ron Wilczak: Before I get into business, I would like to make a few comments being this is my first time here. First, I would like to thank Mayor Hart for selecting me. I know she had multiple people to choose from and she did her homework and she chose who she thought was best. I can promise all of Braidwood citizens that I will do my very best to serve all of you. My door is always open, I know it has been common to this whole council, if there are any questions or concerns, please contact me one way or another; i.e., phone calls or emails or arrange a meeting. Next, I would like to say I am very sorry to see that Jim Mikel and Todd Lyons had to leave or did leave. They served the city well. Thank you both Todd and Jim for your good service to this city. I will hope to do the best I can to fill shoes along with our new police chief. I would like to comment, I think the citizens of Braidwood are very lucky. This council has shown they are open to all communications, willing to listen, and take all matters under consideration carefully. Be happy you have a government like this, that is willing to be so open with all the citizens and take care of the things that they do. So, all citizens are invited to communicate all thoughts and desires you have to any of the council members in person, through email, and Facebook. Unfortunately, Facebook can be a two-edged sword so I would ask you to remember in your form of communication, before you make comments think of the following: Do you know the facts? If not, ask questions to understand the facts. If you want to provide input on your thoughts on something, do it constructively, don't criticize, just explain your point of view politely. Your thoughts and views will be much more beneficial and respected if you provide them in a polite manner. Last thing before business, to all residents of Braidwood for being concerned, I want to thank you. Being here and talking to us and if you want to communicate by email or whatever, please get involved. If you don't get involved, we are assuming that you think we are doing a good job. We are all in this community together and striving for the best lives we can have so I thank you all and best wishes for happy lives going forward.

Commissioner Wilczak made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting to approve Ordinance 23-16 Authorizing the City of Braidwood to enter into and for the Chief of Police of Braidwood to Execute the Call Handling and Aid Outside Jurisdictional Boundaries Agreement. This involves getting our city involved with Will County 9-1-1. This is the best thing we should do. I am making a motion to approve this Ordinance. Motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak, and Hart). Commissioner Wilczak made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Money to approve Ordinance 23-17 Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property owned by the City of Braidwood. This is just excess property in the Police Department which would be appropriate to sell it for what we can. Unknown Resident: How much land are we talking about? Comm. Wilczak: I am not sure if you have the paperwork, this is not land, this is equipment, guns and canisters, police equipment that is no longer needed. Attorney Wellner: No real property, no land. Motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak, and Hart). I am going to have the Police Chief give the standard report since I have not been here long enough to do it.

Chief Goodwin: This is the summary of the police activity from November 17, 2023 to November 27, 2023. Total number of calls for service were 209, of the 209 we generated 12 case reports. Total number of subjects arrested were 4 which generated 8 arrest charges. The total number of traffic stops were 93 of which 15 of those resulted in citations and 47 written warnings. Total number of P tickers were 11 and 6 of those 11 were issued to trucks.

Planning & Zoning Report: George Koczek: Tomorrow night at 7 o'clock we will have a meeting and another meeting next Monday the 4th at 7 o'clock.

Comm. Wilczak: If we have carry over, if we have big audience, and we can't supply them all, do we carry over the meeting from tomorrow to next Tuesday as well?

Koczek: I don't think that will work. I think tomorrow will be very simple, it's just some PIN number changes. The meeting on Monday might be a lot of people here, that is about the Tryner property. That one could have a good crowd.

Attorney Wellner: I will provide the city advise on that.

Old Business:

New Business: Commissioner Money: I have something that I have been working on. I have been talking to the Director of Rural Development. He is in charge of everything from the Indiana state line to about I-39 and everything south of I-80. He was excited that I reached out to him, apparently municipalities don't do that. I have noticed that some people could use some financial help. Four of the things that I have identified that they offer. One is you are purchasing a home; the city qualifies if the person qualifies and the house qualifies, they have low interest loans. I will be getting information from him and I will post it hopefully this month. This is not for everybody but if you do qualify withing the parameters that they offer it does help you. The other thing they offer is low to no down payment depending on income. This does help the people who have lesser incomes get into a home. Prices are high, so anything helps. What I was looking for was people who have repairs that need to be done to their home. This is not a conclusive list but it's roof, heat, water heater those kinds of things. The basic necessities. They have two options for that, again, if you qualify. One is a low interest loan for the repairs and I believe it is up to \$40,000 but the percentage rate is very low. It is a lifetime amount; you might take all of it now or some now and some later. There are also grants that are available for some of it. I do not know all the parameters on that one, but that is grant money it is not paid back. But I did hear there is a limit of \$18,000. I don't know if that does a roof anymore but water heater, window, things to keep you out of the elements and keep the house safe. Once I get the information, I will get it posted, I hope by the end of the year.

Mayor Hart: Could you list the parameters they need to qualify?

Comm. Money: Yes, I will get it all at one time.

Adjournment: Commissioner Money made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wietting, to adjourn the November 28, 2023 regular meeting of the Braidwood City Council. Motion carried with 5 ayes: 0 nays. (Money, Wietting, Walsh, Wilczak, and Hart) The next regular meeting of the Council will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 7:00pm

Approved this 12 Day of December, 2023.



Mayor



City Clerk

