

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
City Council Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 27, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Rulien called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present.

Roll Call

Elected Officials present: Mayor Bill Rulien, Commissioner of Public Property Jim Hutton, Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements Danny Graf, Commissioner of Public Health and Safety Eric Tessler, and Commissioner of Accounts and Finances Elena Hibler.

Appointed officials present: City Attorney Scott Pyles, City Planner Doug Carroll and Deputy Clerk Danielle Godar

Public Comment

-None-

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Rulien requested a motion be made for the approval of December 11, 2012 Public Hearing minutes. A motion was made by Comm. Hutton, Seconded by Comm. Hibler. The motion was approved with 5 ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays.

Mayor Rulien requested a motion be made for the approval of December 11, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes. A motion was made by Comm. Tessler, Seconded by Comm. Hutton. The motion was approved with 5 ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays.

Reports by City Officials

Mayor Rulien requested a motion to be made for an Ordinance Annexing certain territory to the City of Braidwood Will County, Illinois (Gustafson) Ordinance 12-34. Motion was made Comm. Tessler, Seconded by Comm. Hibler 5 ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays

Mayor Rulien requested a motion to be made for approval of the Final Plat, Spring/Will Rd. Subdivision. Motion was made Comm. Tessler, Seconded by Comm. Hutton 5 ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays

Mayor Rulien announced that the City of Braidwood received a grant from Exelon in the amount of \$15,000.00. \$12,500.00 paid for most of the electronic sign that the City installed and \$2,500.00 approximately paid for the fencing around the animals at the welcome center.

Mayor Rulien stated we received a grant from Rt.66 in the amount of \$700.00 to help pay for the car show that we had in town. It helps off, set the cost.

Mayor Rulien stated he spoke with Author John Weiss who writes about Rt. 66. He has written several articles about the zoo in town. He thought it was the most innovative inexpensive stop on Rt. 66. It is promoting and encouraging tourism in our town which will bring in more tax dollars.

Mayor Rulien would like to encourage people to stay in touch with the newsletter and Facebook page (because of the reason is with) the problem with the schools in Connecticut. We have had major changes with the schools here in town. Comm. Tessler and Rich Girot have been working closely with the High School and Grade School about security. The police department has worked with them many times and has been trying to work out security problems. Mayor Rulien would like to announce that Sgt. King will be doing stop bys, mainly at the intermediate school but also at the other schools in town. These will be random visits and he will be there in vans, squad cars, a pickup truck or even an unmarked car. He will be patrolling the parking lots and will also do walk throughs in the school. If anyone finds out please let everyone know that there will be police officers present in the schools. It will cost a little bit of money but we need to do the best we can to protect the children of our community. It needs to be a top priority. The tax payers need to know this is what is being done. We will maneuver some things in the budget but it can be done.

City Planner

Doug Carroll stated Casey's is moving along with their new building. A couple minor engineering and house keepings left to do but they are moving along. Casey's would like to start this winter. Casey's said it will only take about 30 days to build.

Reports by City Commissioners

Comm. Hibler moved to pay \$239,160.17 in bills, an additional bill in the cost of \$2,135.00 that is qualified to be paid out of drug forfeiture fund, that is for vehicle maintenance on the 2011 Dodge Charger, Comm. Hutton seconded. The motion was approved with 5ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays.

Comm. Hibler moved to pay \$67,033.21 in payroll. Comm. Tessler seconded. The motion was approved with 5ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays.

Commissioner of Streets and Public (Comm. Graf) - no report.

Comm. Hutton motioned to approve Rebid of Well #5 to Laine Christensen, cost being at \$64,999.00 Comm. Tessler seconded. The motion was approved with 5ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays.

Commissioner of Public Properties (Comm. Hutton) advised the food pantry received a 10 x 10 walk-in freezer - donated by Bill Shane out of Coal City. Comm. Hutton read the biweekly report and discussed what was happening at the plant. Comm. Hutton reminded everyone of the ordinance stating if there is 2 inches of snow you cannot park on city streets. This will make it easier for plowing and for police officers.

Commissioner of Public Health & Safety (Comm. Tessler) asked for a motion to appoint Jack McCasland to rank of Sergeant. Tessler stated that Sergeant Rex King is stepping down due to health issues and opens another spot for a sergeant. The department normally has 4 Sergeants.

Comm. Tessler. requested a motion be made to appoint Jack McCasland to rank of Sergeant, Comm. Hibler seconded. The motion was approved with 5 ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays.

Commissioner of Public Health & Safety (Comm. Tessler) asked for a motion to appoint Wally Evans as a Part Time Police Officer. Wally works at the High School and is basically the police departments contact. We need a little bit more representation through the department. Wally has had plenty of experience and worked with the Wilmington Police Department for 27 years.

Comm. Tessler. requested a motion be made to appoint Wally Evans as a Part Time Police Officer, Comm. Hutton seconded. The motion was approved with 5 ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) 0 nays.

Comm. Tessler informed the Council it was brought to his attention about Braidwood police officers on I55, many people believe that Braidwood officers have no business patrolling I55. To clarify this, when it comes to boundaries, territories, territories are blind roads. It doesn't matter if it's a state highway, or what road it is, it's in our territory, we have a right to patrol it. Millions of dollars and millions of pounds of drugs go through I55 every day. Once you get to Coal City Road, you have 4 ways into town, Rt. 129, Novy Rd, Rt. 113 and Rt. 53. If we don't catch them before they get to Coal City Road it makes it hard to catch them once they get into town. The fact is the drugs are not home grown in Braidwood; they come from out of town, Joliet, Chicago and even the South. There are a couple perks, 1st perk is the kids aren't doing the drugs, less crime. 2nd perk is it's a money pit, it helps the town grow. It helps to buy better equipment, hire new officers, to be more efficient. All the money we seize goes to the drug fund. We have 6 new vehicles \$180,000 paid for (not paid for by citizens), \$20,000 in new equipment (not paid for by the citizens) approx. \$10,000 more in training (not paid for by citizens) we have seized 6 vehicles approx. \$40,000, 2 gun arrests, 6 guns were stolen and got them off the streets. One seizure that was done brought in \$61,000 that would pay for 1 police officer for one year. Comm. Tessler can understand people wanting to see the police officers in town. They just aren't pulling people over for seatbelt tickets or speeding tickets. Some people think just get the DUI's in town. What if someone was drinking and driving traveling down I55 and blows the stop light on Coal City Road and hits a vehicle that one of your loved ones were traveling in?

The police department will be retesting for eligibility that is mandated by the state done by early February. Testing will be done at the field house and we will need volunteers to run stop watches. Anyone can help that would like to donate some time.

Rich Girot has a new system that can log into the school cameras from squad cars. It gives the police officers a better idea of what you are getting into before you enter the building. Some exercises and drills have been run with the teachers. More training will be done with the teachers to get them more involved. This will happen this spring/summer. December 21, 2012 officers were present at the schools due to hear say. Everything went fine and there were no problems.

Mayor stated the public needs to understand they just aren't ignoring this situation that happened in Connecticut, they are really working at it.

Comm. Graf thanked Rich Girot and Comm. Tessler and Mayor Rulien for really coming together with a plan to increase the safety at the school and wanted to commend them for that.

Wally will benefit the City, School and the children. The City can't afford to pay them to be there all the time. Hopefully we will get grants back to have an officer at the schools all the time.

Planning and Zoning Report

Michelle Serena advised the Planning and Zoning Meeting will be Monday, January 7, 2013 to handle the continuation for rezoning for the Gustafson property.

Adjournment

Mayor Rulien asked for a motion to adjourn. Comm. Hutton made that motion, seconded by Comm. Tessler. The motion was approved with 5 ayes (Hibler, Hutton, Graf, Tessler, Rulien) and 0 nays.

Approved this 8th day of January 2013

Will Rulien Mayor

Lisa Alesso City Clerk