

SPECIAL MEETING

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AGENDA

Monday July 19, 2010

1. Call Meeting to Order 6:00 pm
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Hearing on termination of Administrator
5. Adjournment

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Braidwood City Council was called to order by Mayor Sue Grygiel on Monday July 19, 2010 at 6:05 pm in City Hall.2

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present at the meeting.

ROLL CALL

On Roll Call, the following members were present: Commissioners: Rozak, Hutton, Smith and Grace. Also present were Mayor Grygiel, Attorney Carl Buck and City Clerk Gloria Robilotta.

-Mayor Grygiel opened the Special meeting and explained that all requirements for a Special Meeting have been met and that the meeting is being held due to a request from Commissioner Grace for a hearing on the termination of the City Administrator Andy Galatte. Mayor Grygiel stated that there would be no Public Comment or comments from the floor.

Mr. Galatte requested a hearing with the Council to give his reasons why he should not have been terminated. Mayor Grygiel stated that pursuant to State Statutes we have complied and at this time Mayor Grygiel turned the meeting over to Mr. Galatte for his comments.

Mr. Galatte expressed his thanks to the Commissioners and residents for attending the meeting. He wished to respond to the lies that the Mayor stated in the newspaper. The first being that he has brought no new businesses into town. Mr. Galatte referenced M&R Auto, Cup O Joe, State Farm, Road Angel, Resale Shop and the redevelopment of the car wash.

Mr. Galatte stated that the Mayor said there were no new annexations. He referenced the Industrial Park on Route 53. Letters went to Will County, Tameling RV Park and we are still waiting for a response. He is still waiting for Mr. Rozak to do the continuity for Snookers.

Mr. Galatte mentioned the boundary agreements stating that the Mayor of Diamond is still waiting to hear from Mayor Grygiel about Spring Road and Reed Road. He indicated that the water and sewer lines are very costly to the city.

Mr. Galatte stated that he took offense to the comment by Mayor Grygiel that he has a vested interest in the Industrial Park. He remarked that he has not a penny in the property or the building and he expects a formal apology from the Mayor.

Mr. Galatte said that in the paper the Mayor stated that he (Mr. Galatte) would resign if she removed the Acting Chief from his position. Mr. Galatte said that that was a blatant lie. Mr. Galatte stated that he doesn't make deals and that the Mayor is afraid to bring up the other 3 positions before the council for approval. Mr. Galatte accused Mayor Grygiel of calling the newspapers to air their dirty laundry and these are issues that the residents of the City need to know.

Mr. Galatte stated that Mayor Grygiel tried to terminate the position of Administrator without the consent of the Council and without having anyone in place to take over and that it's very irresponsible of the Mayor to do so. He stated that it is difficult to work with someone that irresponsible.

Mr. Galatte then turned the meeting back to Mayor Grygiel.

Mayor Grygiel asked the Council if they had anything that they would like to comment on at this time.

Mayor Grygiel commented on trust. When you have an employee that you can't work with, someone that you can't trust. someone that maybe changes or twists the stories then you have to find out what the truth is.

Mayor Grygiel addressed the issue she has with the orange flyer that was passed out at Summerfest and at the Good Table Restaurant. The Mayor commented that since Mr. Galatte was in an appointed/volunteer position and was reimbursed for travel expenses and his cell phone usage that it wasn't really a volunteer position.

Mayor Grygiel stated that on June 29th she gave Mr. Galatte a termination letter that was put in his mailbox. The Mayor said that she and Mr. Galatte had at least two previous conversations and that Mr. Galatte stated that if there is anytime we are not working together I will resign my position. Mayor Grygiel asked what is the difference in making that statement and when she asked for his resignation she did not get it. We have received Mr. Galatte's keys and City ID, but still have not received any files, maps, documents or anything belonging to the City.

Mayor Grygiel stated that the main reason for terminating Mr. Galatte is trust. The Mayor went on to reference the State Law that says the Mayor may remove any appointed officer whenever they believe it is in the best interest of the Municipality.

Mayor Grygiel said that it is unfortunate with the animosity with the city employees and residents and feels that she was pitted against the Zoning Chair Jim Canup. Before Jim Canup was appointed Mr. Galatte made the statement to another Zoning Board Member that he needed a new Zoning Chair but he needed someone he can control. Mr. Galatte has influenced the Zoning Board on several issues that he may or may not have an interest in.

Mr. Galatte has pitted the Public Health and Safety Commissioner against her in regards to the Chief and the PD.

Mayor Grygiel feels that she and the Commissioners have made a lot of strides forward in the last three years. She said that if anyone remembers when she came in as Mayor it was a three to two vote and she takes great pride in this Council with working together to move forward. Mayor Grygiel pointed out that there was a continuous cause of conflict and chaos and the City has expensed a lot of money on legal fees regarding the Acting Police Chief, Supervisor of Public Works, Building Inspector and City Hall Staff. The Mayor was told that the Building Inspector

was overstepping his bounds and that he is the one keeping business out of town. The Building Inspector is following the code book and there is no straying from it. Mayor Grygiel feels that there is a lot of animosity and it is a vicious circle trying to hang somebody. Mr. Galatte has stirred up dissention among employees and Commissioners. The Mayor brought up the comment made by Mr. Galatte that the Mayor has lied about a lot of things. She stated that when she spoke to the Commissioners about some things that she was told by Andy, they either knew nothing or it wasn't what was said.

Mayor Grygiel brought up the issue of insubordination to the Mayor. Mr. Galatte was advised several times to stay out of personnel issues at City Hall. On January 27, 2010 the staff received a memo to that effect. The City Administrator was advised that he is to focus on development on Braidwood, mainly working on the Main Street Redevelopment Project. February 26, 2010 the Mayor had a conversation with Mr. Galatte and he was told to focus on the Main Street Redevelopment Project, new business, commercial retail, annexation and boundary agreements. He was also reminded at that time to please stay out of personnel.

Mayor Grygiel questioned why the City Administrator who was at the time sitting on the Zoning Board would issue the building permit for the Industrial Park on Rt 53. The owner listed on the building permit application was Bobby Jones. The building permit was signed and issued by Andy Galatte. The former building inspector would not issue the building permit because he felt that there were too many things wrong. The application for sewage disposal and installation was whited out with tape and showed Bob Jones as owner. The requested copy faxed to the Mayor from the health department showed Joe Galatte as the owner with his phone number and address. The drawings on the back side of the documents are different. The Water Well application shows Road Angel Towing with Joe Galatte in parenthesis. The mylar has Bob Jones and B3 Investors as the owner.

Mayor Grygiel brought up Kevinigans and remarked that it has been said that the Mayor got rid of the businesses on Main Street. Unfortunately in March of 2009 the owner of Kevinigans was told by the Mr. Galatte that the city is still going through with the development and Kevin would have to be out by December 31st. Approximately 1 month before the auction Kevin came to the Mayor's office and Commissioner Hutton was present. Kevin, when asked why he didn't talk to her sooner told the Mayor he was too angry to talk to anybody. The Mayor said that if she had known about it before the auction had been set up that Kevinigan's would still be there and so would the American Legion because we had no developer and still don't have a developer.

Mayor Grygiel said that trust is the major issue and she feels like she has been lied to. She remarked that Mr. Galatte has told others that he has three commissioners in his back pocket. He has made statements about telling the Mayor what to do. She feels that he has overstepped his bounds and undermined the Mayor's authority. The Mayor feels that Andy has not informed the Council one hundred percent on dealing with businesses and property owners. When Mr. Galatte submitted his resignation from the Zoning Board he gave his reason as a conflict of interest. The Mayor questioned why it wasn't a conflict two years prior to his resigning. Mayor Grygiel pointed out that the Administrator does not control the Mayor.

Mayor Grygiel asked the Commissioners if there was anything they wanted to add. Commissioner Grace stated that it was disappointing that two adults can't sit down and talk and come to some sort of an agreement. He also remarked that the City has not made any progress in the last three and one half years with the exception of reducing the budget.

Mr Galatte accused the Mayor of making accusations about dissention on the City Hall office. He asked the Mayor if she is ever going to bring the 3 appointments before the Council for approval.

Mr. Galatte stated that he never received the letter and Mayor Grygiel responded it was put in his mailbox.

Mr. Galatte pointed out that Kevin has signed a contract and that TIF would be ending in December. Mr. Galatte said the Mayor was a liar and accused her of being out of control. He said if she wants to continue then they could continue privately with her own attorney and not the City Attorney.

The Mayor responded that all the appointments had been on the agenda but were tabled by the commissioners before the meeting. Mr. Galatte again accused The Mayor of continuously lying to the public.

Mayor Grygiel asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting.

A motion was made by Comm. Grace, seconded by Comm. Hutton to adjourn the Special Meeting.

AYES-5 Comms. Rozak, Hutton, Smith, Grace and Mayor Grygiel

NAYS-0

ABSTAIN-0

ABSENT-0

Motion Carries

-The Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm

Approved this 10th day

of August 2010


MAYOR


CITY CLERK