

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Friday, April 26, 2019, at 6:00pm

AGENDA

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.)

Comments by Mayor & Commissioners

Appointment of City Administrator

Appointment of Chief of Police

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
Special Meeting Minutes
Friday April 26, 2019

Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Jones asked Comm. Hart to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Elected Officials present: Commissioner Saltzman, Commissioner Money, Commissioner Hart and Mayor Jones were present. Commissioner Smith was absent.

Appointed officials present: City Attorney Kopman and City Clerk Sue Grygiel were present.

Public Comment

Opened at 6:02pm.

Charles Galbraith, 347 E. Ridge. He first congratulated Mayor Jones. He questioned why we lost the Chief? He said he was the only Chief we've had in this town since he's been in Braidwood that gave a darn what happens to the young people in this town. He said the Chief had many, many raids and has gotten rid of the heroine dealers in this town. He said when the Chief first started Chuck gave him a list of 15 people who died of heroine overdoses, 2 which were less than a block from city hall and in a 10 months period of time. He said the former Chief and former Public Health & Safety Comm. fought our drug issue by bringing in the FBI and other agencies to help clean up the drug issue in town. Chuck said he's upset that you, the Mayor fired him, a man that was truly trying to help us.

Tim Oke, said he works for the Drug Enforcement Agency if you're worried about the heroine overdoses. Tim said the new Chief that's coming in has worked with their Task Force and he can do an amazing job. He said the incoming Chief cares about this town and asked him to just give him a chance because he feels you're going to be very surprised.

Closed at 6:05pm.

Comments by Mayor & Commissioners

Mayor Jones asked the commissioners if they had any questions, comments they wanted to talk about? Comm. Saltzman said before we make our appointments he wanted to address the council. Wayne said since the Election he's been in the office every day due to the Budget concerns. He said he's been working with the city clerk and trying to get hands on where our finances are. At the current time we have a firm working on our Bank Reconciliations and going through all our accounts making sure everything has been booked in the General Ledger. They've been here for about a week starting with May 2018 and have made great strides in a short period of time, but still have a long way to go. What Wayne was trying to say was we have two more pay periods and two more payments of bills and feels we should have enough money to cover them. He said we really shouldn't be hiring personnel at this time. And behind all of this is the IEPA Loan that is due in May in the amount of \$360,000. Wayne suggested that at this time we really consider not hiring an Administrator. Wayne asked to give him at least a month because we have money coming in next month, May 23rd from property taxes. But in the meantime we have other bills coming in and other responsibilities also. Wayne said he knows we have to put a Police Chief in at this time and had the pleasure of sitting down with Charlie Hart, Comm. of Public Health & Safety talking about his Budget and were in agreement. Wayne said they're going to work together with the new Chief. He said he hasn't had a chance to talk with Doug Money, Comm. of Public Property who he had an appointment with but Doug had to cancel.

Wayne then spoke directly to Tony Altiery saying he has nothing against him but he needs to understand where Wayne was coming from. He said to Tony, this is not about you this is about the city and what we can afford at this point in time and knows we do need to hire a Police Chief. Wayne said he's going to quote the Mayor again as to what he said in the newspaper "I'm going to put Braidwood on a Diet" and said he's here to enforce that Diet. He said he's hoping that the other commissioners go along with his reasons he presented to the council. Wayne told Tony you're going to get your job just not right away. Mayor Jones said to him that there's a lot going on in this town and doesn't know if he's aware of what we've got going on here. The Mayor said we need somebody here to bring business into town, we need someone to do things. Comm. Saltzman said at this time the Mayor would have to step up and handle this. Mayor Jones said he's going to step up and tell you right now, we are going to cut some people that we don't need and make enough room that we're going to have an Administrator and a Police Chief and that's what we need to do. There was a back and forth argument between them about the time we have or don't have to put an Administrator in place. The Mayor said we have to go forward and Comm. Saltzman said he's trying to but we need to get our finances in place first and the Mayor said ok. Mayor said so we're going to run with no leadership? Comm. Saltzman said no, no, you are our leader! The Mayor then said let's move on with this. After continued heated conversation between the Mayor and Commissioner the Mayor put the appointment of the Administrator to a vote with no further comment from the remaining Commissioners.

Mayor Jones made a motion to appoint Tony Altiery for the City Administrator at \$78,000, seconded by Comm. Hart. Comm. Saltzman commented before the vote, "we're just digging ourselves a bigger hole" when we should be trying to dig ourselves out of the hole this council acquired!

Motion approved 3 ayes (Money, Hart & Mayor Jones) 1 nay (Saltzman) 1 absent (Smith).

Mayor Jones then addressed his next Agenda item, the appointment of the Chief of Police.

Mayor Jones made a motion to appoint Todd Lyons as our Police Chief at \$90,000. The Mayor stated that both of his appointments salaries are a lot cheaper than all the towns around us, google it, look around because Braidwood is the cheapest by far. Motion seconded by Comm. Hart. Comm. Saltzman asked the new Chief to come forward and give us some background on himself before vote is taken. Todd Lyons then approached the council introducing himself as well as giving his background in Law Enforcement for the past 28 yrs. and his father before him as the Police Chief in Wilmington.

Motion approved 4 ayes (Hart, Saltzman, Money & Mayor Jones) 1 absent (Smith).

Mayor Jones asked Police Chief Lyons to come forward and be sworn in by the City Clerk.

Adjournment

Comm. Saltzman made motion to adjourn the Special meeting at 6:24pm, seconded by Comm. Hart.

Motion approved with 4 ayes, 0 nays (Saltzman, Hart, Money & Mayor Jones) 1 absent (Smith).

Approved this 14th day of May 2019
Robert Jones Mayor
Lee Gregory City Clerk

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 1

