

Braham City Council Special Meeting

Minutes

September 23, 2021 5 pm

Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members present Ryan Davis, Seth Zeltinger, Vicky Ethen, and Robert Knowles.

Others Present at the Meeting: Administrator Angela Grafstrom, Chief Eric Baumgart, Nicole Hallman of the County News Review. City Residents: Gina and McKenna Grams, Terry Turnquist, Judy Hegstrom, Jeremy Kunshier, Russell Monson, Shawn Fisher, Ross Benzen, Mike and Nicole Wachs, Nathaniel George, Kelly Munson. Others present: Doug Leaf, Marcy Peterson, Kathy Eklund, Dakota Hill, Addie Leaf, Janette Benzen, Todd Schuster, Kevin and Alicia Stahl, Kevin Lease, Keith Justen, Sherriff Chris Caulk, Josh Olson, Lynette Thomson, Lisa Hill, Sam Steigen, David Segl, Daniel Olson, Lisa Lovering

Accepting the Agenda

Councilor Ethen motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilor Knowles and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Opening Statement

Before we get started, I would like to share a few steps we all need to follow to help conduct a respectful and productive meeting tonight.

"For the purpose of this meeting, please keep your comments limited strictly to the budget, refrain from comments about other topics or specific individuals."

1. We will first start by hearing from our city administrator Angie Grafstrom on her thoughts and suggestions for the city's 2022 budget. Which has already been approved by council and certified with the county. (This will be similar to the info we heard at our September 7th full council meeting)
2. Please note that the council will be gathering info and listening to city residents only at this time, and will not be responding directly to your comments. -No actions will be taken tonight in order to give the council enough time to take your concerns under consideration.
3. Each City of Braham resident will have up to three minutes to speak after stating their full name and addresses-And, only if time allows, those who live outside the city limits may have the opportunity to speak as well.

We the city council have heard concerns from residents about rumors that the city plans to defund or dissolve the police department. I want to make it clear before we hear from you tonight that those rumors are untrue. There are no plans to defund or dissolve the department. Again, please remember to be respectful during the comment period and stay on point, so that we can conduct a complete and successful meeting and be sure to limit your remarks to no more than 3 minutes – so that we have an opportunity to hear from everyone who wishes to speak.

Your cooperation is appreciated."

Thank you.

(Punctuation is exactly as it appears in the original document. Original document is in the official minutes packet.)

Acceptance of Jesse Zajac Resignation

Councilor Ethen motioned to accept the resignation of Jesse Zajac as of September 23, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilor Knowles and carried unanimously.

Review of the 2022 Certified Budget

Administrator Grafstrom went through the 2022 budget as presented to and approved by council. Baumgart and councilors had comments and questions.

15 Minutes for Public to Speak

Members of the public spoke including Terry Turnquist, Ross Benzen, Russ Monsun, Mike Wachs, Sherriff Chris Caulk, Nathaniel George, and Lisa Hill. Included in the packet was a letter from resident Paula Grams which was not read at the meeting. Councilor Ethen had also given the Mayor an anonymous letter from another resident, which was also not presented at the meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business of the Braham City Council, Councilor Ethen moved to adjourn the special meeting of September 23, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilor Knowles and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Submitted by Angela Grafstrom