

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING *FEBRUARY 19, 2024

Minutes of the finance committee meeting of the Breese City Council held on the above date.

Mayor Kevin Timmermann called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Aldermen in attendance: Robert Berndsen, Jason Davinroy, Bill Fischer, Steve Hellige, Carl Ratermann, Tim Schleper, Gary Usselmann. Absent: Bryan Eversgerd.

City Officials: Public Works Mgr. Don Voss, Electric Operations Mgr. Jason Deering, Business Admin. Trevor Schubert, Police Chief Mark Berndsen, Police Sgt. Kurt Detmer, Golf Superintendent Paul Smith, Clubhouse Mgr. Doug Schulte, Park Custodian Bruce Kruep, City Treasurer Robert Venhaus, City Attorney Joanne Stevenson.

Visitors: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Police Chief Mark Berndsen and Sgt. Kurt Detmer had a presentation with a representative from Axon. The company supplies body cameras and in-car cameras. They reviewed pricing and payment plans for the equipment requirement that is mandated by 12/31/24. The council will set up a public safety committee meeting to review. Trevor is also working on a grant for this purchase.
- Flock Safety cameras – These cameras will read license plates and send alerts to officers of any plate that is wanted on warrants, amber alerts, etc. Would like them installed at entrances to the city. The cost is \$3,000 each and requires a minimum purchase of 2. Council in agreement to purchase.
- New police truck – Jansen Ford has one for \$46,189 and K&J has one for \$42,213. Mark was instructed to also check prices on SUV. No decision was made at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Mine Street has been delayed until next year due to another environmental study needed. The soonest it would be ready is November 2024. Since the MFT Rebuild funds need to be expended in 2024, Don would like to switch to the S. Main Street project. This would include resurfacing the street only from the RR tracks to South 4th St. This will be a 3- month project and done by city crews, which will have to be approved by IDOT. Don believes, since we were approved to use city crews on Mine St., it hopefully won't be a problem to switch to S. Main.
- Box culvert at golf course and cart path #8 are done. Will be starting on cart path #4 Tuesday. Would like to do cart path #9 and then move to the short section of #3. Don figures it will be another \$20,000 to do this. The council agreed to do it, but see what the entire project cost is, and possibly do a loan from the general fund, if golf course is short on funds.

UTILITIES:

- EPA Inspection at water plant had 3 issues:
 1. Million-gallon tank hasn't been inspected since 1999. Need an EPA permit to connect the finish water main to the potable water main. The tank will need to be taken out of service for a couple weeks. If not possible to do this by June, will need to wait until fall, due to flushing of water lines during summer.
 2. Intake structure at the creek. Need to inspect screens per EPA.
 3. Mutual aid contract with another community. Will investigate Carlyle Southwest.
- Water tower loan – cost is estimated at \$2.15 million. Loan payments would be \$128,000 annually for 20 years without reduced interest rate and loan forgiveness. Would be \$43,663 annually for 30 years with reduced interest rate and loan forgiveness.
- Sewer Plan Loan – still hoping for funding in July.
- Resolutions on agenda for tomorrow night authorizing representative to sign PWSLP Loan Application documents for the water tower and WPCLP Loan Application documents for sewer plant.
- Valve Exerciser – Don wants to put this in the FY-2025 budget at \$40,000, but needs to order now, to get it here by next year. The council approved.
- Arrow Group Solar – they are contemplating a large array of solar. The council felt we need to keep their production in line with their usage to avoid losing revenue. Need to do a rate study to see if we need to unbundle our rates to address this issue in the future. Jason to schedule a meeting with IMEA to discuss this.
- 69kv switch – award bid to JF Electric for \$95,084 (is on the agenda for approval tomorrow night). Received 2 bids, JF being the lowest.
- Solar net metering agreement rate has dropped to .0542 per kw for the next year.
- Substation Transformer – 20 MVA transformer was flagged for arcing. SD Meyer to inspect and repair if possible.

AMBULANCE:

- Billable runs – motion by Schleper, second by Davinroy to approve the billable runs for January 2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECREATION:

- Hannah's bathroom heat – would like to find a way to heat the bathroom in the winter so we don't have to get a portable restroom. Possibly call Kohnen Heating & AC to see if there is a way to get this done.
- Park Capital Projects – Jason Davinroy brought up the playground by the main pavilion needing to be replaced. Bruce to get cost estimate.
- Dog Park – the committee met and has a new idea for the location. Committee to meet again soon. Mayor would like ready for approval in April.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

- Ambulance Rate Increases – general cpi changed to 3.4% for 2023, and medical was -0.5. The council agreed to change from medical cpi to general cpi and to automatically renew yearly.

- Auditors – currently have 2 bids. Bids to be opened at the March finance meeting.
- Joe’s Pizza – getting costs to Trevor in the next week. Hope to start construction in April.

CITY COLLECTOR:

- Requesting complete budgets be turned in to City Collector by March 18th finance meeting. Include capital projects and explanation for any increase greater than 5%.
- Employee handbook – recommend using IMLRMA sample personnel policy manual. IMLRMA updates it yearly. Council agreed. Set a March 7th committee meeting to begin updating the manual.
- Executive session minutes – Joanne stated we need to discuss in executive session.

ZONING:

- No report.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

- No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

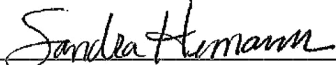
- No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- No report.

Motion by Schleper, second by Berndsen to go into executive session to review previous executive session minutes and determine if any need to be opened to the public. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Non-verbatim minutes taken by: 
Sandy Hemann, City Clerk