

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING \* NOVEMBER 18, 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, Bryan Eversgerd, Bill Fischer, Steve Hellige, Carl Ratermann, Tim Schleper, Gary Usselmann.

City Officials: Public Works Mgr. Don Voss, Business Administrator Trevor Schubert, Electric Operations Mgr. Jason Deering, Police Chief Mark Berndsen, EMS Operations Mgr. Allen Pollmann, Golf Course Mgr. Paul Smith, City Treasurer Robert Venhaus, Utility Billing Clerk Jackie Hummert, City Attorney Joanne Stevenson.

Visitors: None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

- Vacation Pay – over 7 employees had vacation hours they lost at the end of the year. Don asked that employees be able to roll over 160 hours instead of the current 120, so they don't lose their vacation days. He stated he believes we have dedicated employees who don't take vacation days because of the workload. The council agreed and the city attorney to prepare an addendum stating the change.
- \$100,000 infrastructure grant – Don would like to use these funds for either the engineering for the water plant upgrade or the sewer by-pass by Rt. 50. Trevor stated we may be able to use ARPA funds for the engineering project and he will check into this. He will meet with Don to discuss.
- MFT State of IL possibly allocating \$400,000,000 – If we receive any of these funds, council agreed to allocate it to pavement for Mine St.
- N. Walnut & Broadway ditch – we receive approval from CSX railroad to fix this issue. We will be installing a new box culver and widening the roadway. Work has already begun.
- S. Main Street – waiting on Rooters to do the crack seal and then stripping can be done. That will close out the job.

#### **UTILITIES:**

- Settling Basins at Water Plant – Cost to be \$50-\$60,000 for cleanout. Don would like to waive competitive bidding and hire Kampwerth Dependable Pumping to do the work at 2.5 cents per gallon, which is cheaper than previous quotes. The council agreed and will be on the agenda to waive competitive bidding on 12/3/24

- Carlyle SW Water Contract – Don heard back from Jeff Schulte with Carlyle SW and they are good to keep everything the same for another 20-year contract. Will be ready for approval 12/3/24.
- Raeber-Fonke Subdivision – we have preliminary drawings from HMG to review.
- Mutual Aid Agreement – Don sent out the public works mutual aid agreement with Carlyle SW and several surrounding water districts. This is a new agreement that was formerly just Carlyle SW. Joanne has reviewed and no changes were needed.
- Efficiency Program Lighting Project – we have funds left in this program that need to be used this year. Jason would like to upgrade the softball diamond lights at North Park and the lights on the basketball court at a price of \$37,396. The lighting program would pay \$28,047 and the remaining \$9,349.00 would come out of the park cap out. The council approved.
- Wholesale Connection Agreement with Ameren/IMEA – Council received the ordinance Joanne prepared and is ready for approval tomorrow night.
- Substation Transformer – one of the substation transformers failed last Saturday morning causing a power outage. Jason has a company working on it, but it keeps running hot. This is a large transformer, and it is around 25 years old. We do not have a replacement and when the load increases in the summer, we may have to generate it if we cannot get it up and running properly. The council agreed we need to get a new one ordered because the lead time is 90 weeks. Jason was instructed to move forward with ordering.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- Chief Berndsen reported a theft in Centralia last night and stated our camera's picked up on the vehicle, but the thieves were not caught yet.

#### **AMBULANCE:**

- The new cot is on backorder, but we should be getting a demo to use in the meantime.
- Billable Runs – motion by Eversgerd, second by Berndsen to approve billable runs for October. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Credit Card Fees – ambulance is losing approximately \$4,000 a year in credit card fees. The council agreed to have Lea check with Mediclaims to see about charging a fee to entities using credit cards for payment.

#### **RECREATION:**

- Truck for park custodian – council referred to recreation committee to set a meeting to discuss
- Rough Mower at Golf Course – recreation committee agreed to have Paul move forward with purchasing the mower.
- Ryan Sherman full-time – council agreed to hire Ryan full-time. Paul to get specifics on pay and benefits.

#### **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

- Jansen Ford TIF – PGAV recommended holding off on passing the ordinances until the property is rezoned to C-2. Trevor to contact zoning administrator to get hearing set up.

- Budget status – Trevor compared to last year’s budget and most departments are outperforming last year’s budget with the exception of a few departments that have had capital expenses.
- Business District Grants – Trevor has received more information from Breese Lawn & Garden and an application from V & H Recreation. The council approved to pay out the grants upon completion of the projects.

**CITY COLLECTOR:**

- Tax Levy – the Collector proposed a levy of \$1,174,028.71 to be levied for 2024 taxes, payable 2025. This amount stays under the 105% increase from last year’s levy to avoid a truth in taxation hearing and should have a rate of about .88 cents. This would see an increase in revenue of about \$55,660.71 for FY-2025. The council would like to meet with the library about their levy to see what their budget looks like before we decide on their levy amount. Alderman Usselmann to set up a meeting with the library board. The council in agreement on the levy amount for the city.

**ZONING:**

- Solar Fields & Wind Turbines and Free-Standing Solar Panels – need to speak with zoning administrator to check on progress with these.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

- Mayor Timmermann presented the preliminary layout of the Fonke-Raeber subdivision on Holy Cross Lane for the council’s review.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

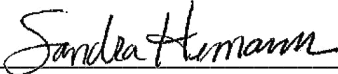
None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

Motion by Eversgerd, second by Ratermann to go into executive session to discuss wage increases for specific personnel. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

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