

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING * APRIL 14, 2025

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, Tim Schleper. Absent: Carl Ratermann, 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, Park Custodian Bruce Kruep, Deputy City Clerk Jackie Hummert, Golf Supt. Paul Smith, Clubhouse Mgr. Doug Schulte, Street Supt. Tom Tebbe, City Attorney Joanne Stevenson, Treasurer Robert Venhaus, Utility Billing Clerk Monica Mensing.

Visitors: Jeff Jung, Dan Robben, Lucas Essenpreis, Brian Buchheit.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITIES:

- The council met with VIPOWER regarding the upgrade for one EMD generator and the power plant SCADA. The upgrade cost to be \$460,00 with work to be done fall 2025. The council approved the upgrade and VIPOWER will get us a contract to be approved at the 5/6/25 council meeting.
- Brian Buchheit with HMG Engineers updated the council on the status of the sewer plant upgrade and the south water tower.
SEWER PLANT - He stated the sewer plant upgrade was not even scored with EPA last year, and we only have about a 50/50 shot at receiving an EPA loan this year. June is when the state will send notifications. Buchheit stated the sewer plant is currently running at 88% capacity. When we reach 90%, they will deny any permits and we will be shut down from growth. Without the upgrade, we would only be able to add about a 40-lot subdivision.
SOUTH WATER TOWER - Buchheit stated it is also unlikely we will get a loan for the South Water Tower, as there are billions in applications and only 666 million in available funding. If we receive no funding, his recommendation would be to do a bond issue for both projects.
- AMI software – we are moving forward with software from *Oati* at an initial cost of \$426,215.00. All information has been sent to the council and will be ready for approval at the 5/6/25 council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- STU Funds – The city qualifies for about \$822,000 of STU funds from the state for a shovel ready project. The 12th street roundabout is the project, and the total cost is about \$1.2 million. The county will pay 1% and the city will need to come up with about \$500,000.00 to complete the project. Currently, there is \$320,000.00 in the infrastructure account which was earmarked for the 12th street roundabout project.
- *iWorQ Systems* – work order software. Includes work orders, integrates with GIS, can handle rental inspection software, fleet maintenance and cemetery (for an extra charge). Cost is \$15,250 for the 1st year and \$11,500 annually and to be split between 5 departments. Motion by Schleper, second by Davinroy to purchase the software. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- *Tower Co* – has offered to buy a lifetime lease in the amount \$226,000. Currently we receive \$1053.00 monthly. This was tabled for further review.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Joanne prepared the ordinance to sync the speed limits on routes coming into town. IDOT is doing a speed study on Route 50, so we are waiting to hear from them. The council agreed to approve all the other route speed limit changes now. Joanne to amend the ordinance accordingly.

AMBULANCE:

- Motion by Davinroy, second by Fischer to approve billable runs for March. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Motion by Schleper, second by Eversgerd to approve the new Medicaid's contract. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Contract on the agenda for approval tomorrow night.

RECREATION:

- Trash cans for pet waste on Vossclare Lane and Rt. 50 bridges was tabled.
- Sports league replacement – Bruce has an interested person for the position and Davinroy to set up a meeting to discuss.
- Paul has purchased batteries for the golf carts and is installing them.
- The Optimist Club asked about any park projects needed in the future. Tennis courts were brought up.
- Swings at new playground – there was concern the marked area is too close to the sidewalk. Tom stated the marked area is 31' from the sidewalk which meets regulations. No other location would work without cutting down trees and relocating benches. The council agreed to put them at the marked location to the south of the new playground.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

- Trevor will begin year-end documents and preparing for the audit. He stated he will need inventory from managers after May 1.
- Breese Lawn & Garden is looking for a possible business district grant for their building improvements. The council agreed to let Trevor move forward with this.

CITY COLLECTOR:

- Budgets – the council reviewed the amended budget that Jackie sent out and will approve at the meeting tomorrow night.
- BAC front door needs painting. Tom stated there are more doors that need paint. Sandy to contact someone to get them done.

ZONING:

None.

MAYORS REPORT

- Alley maintenance – recommended to work on a plan for fixing commercial high traffic alleys.
- Credit cards – we need a have a policy and procedure for company credit cards. Kevin would like to see any purchase over \$1,000 to be approved by the committee chairman, and “managers only” to sign off on all invoices. Will need to get Joanne details and she will prepare the policy.

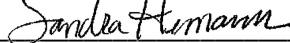
OLD BUSINESS:

- Cannabis Zoning Ordinance – Joanne recommends simulating Highland’s ordinance. She will prepare an ordinance for the council to review.
- Council attendance – the current ordinance states aldermen can miss 2 regular and 1 finance meeting without loss of pay. Kevin recommended allowing to miss 4 regular and 2 finance meetings without loss of pay. Joanne to prepare the ordinance. Joanne also reviewed the current policy regarding attending meetings virtually, so correct procedure is followed when this occurs.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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