

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING * FEBRUARY 16, 2026

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 p.m.

Aldermen in attendance: Jason Davinroy, Steve Hellige, Luke Essenpreis, Jeff Jung, Carl Ratermann, Dan Robben, Tim Schleper, Gary Usselmann.

City Officials: Public Works Mgr. Don Voss, Electric Operations Mgr. Jason Deering, Street Supt. Tom Tebbe, Plant Operator Branden Foppe, HR & Clubhouse Mgr. Doug Schulte, Golf Course Supt. Paul Smith, City Treasurer Bob Venhaus, Police Chief Mark Berndsen, EMS Operations Mgr. Allen Pollmann, Business Admin. Trevor Schubert, Park Custodian Bruce Kruep, City Attorney Joanne Stevenson.

PROJECTS:

- South Water Tower—should receive a schedule from Caldwell Tanks this week
- Sewer Plant Upgrade—no report
- Mine Street Improvements—Approve a resolution Tuesday night to authorize a joint agreement with IDOT and allow funding from the General Fund that will be reimbursed later by IDOT. IDOT will front \$500,000 and reimburse the other \$500,000 after project is completed. The city's cost will be roughly \$600,000. Still no movement with the Farrell family on easement.
- HCL East/HCL West—no report
- Bandstand—Andy Straeter is scheduled to tear down Thursday morning. Nick Mueth wants to meet with Kevin and committee to discuss future plans.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Don asked for permission to renew a contract with Clean the Uniform Company. Council approved.

UTILITIES:

- Don and Jason asked the council to consider adding standby pay to the new union contract for the operators. The IMEA periodically requires the city to be ready to generate when they call.
- St. Rose Water contract—on Tuesday's agenda for approval. Will continue to calculate annual costs to ensure appropriate revenue.
- Cross Connection software—The EPA is enforcing surveys and record keeping. Don found a company that will do everything for the city for \$5000/year.
- Fair Solar Credit—the rate for February is \$.0729/kWh
- BHMG Substation Engineering contract—on Tuesday's agenda for approval not to exceed \$605,000.
- Bryan Gonzalez replacement—Council approved to hire someone by May 1st to start training. Bryan retires October 2026.
- APPA Legislative Rally—Kevin, Jason, and Tim will be in Washington DC February 22-26. Carl will be Mayor Pro Tem until Kevin returns.

- Don reminded the council that he wants to hire Zane Schrage as a full-time lineman in May 2026.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Mark is hiring 2 new part-time officers. He intends to put them both through the part-time academy. The city will buy their vests, and the new officers will purchase their own belt equipment. These new hires will replace some current part-time officers that haven't filled shifts recently.

AMBULANCE:

- Mediclaims did not adjust their rates from the last contract and will credit overpayments.
- Allen has a rep from Stryker coming to price new cots. Preventative maintenance is \$9500 per cot annually. One of the cots is outdated and not eligible for inspection.
- Motion by Davinroy, seconded by Schleper to approve the Billable Runs for January 2026. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Collections—Joanne will review the agreements from the firms that Lea contacted.
- New ambulance—Allen wants to purchase a 4th ambulance (used) while waiting for the new order to arrive. Kevin asked the committee to meet and review the budget and staff to support purchasing a 4th truck.

RECREATION:

- Bruce and crew are starting to clean up the parks. The new bleachers are assembled and in place around the diamonds. Basketball court needs fresh striping.
- ADA parking—Motion by Davinroy, seconded by Usselmann to approve the Street Dept pouring concrete at the golf course for 3 parking spaces and the sidewalk leading to the clubhouse. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Miners Park also needs updated ADA parking.
- Doug needs to name a golf course employee as a representative to attend ILBA meetings to maintain status for hosting the annual golf tournament.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

- Trevor updated the council on the January financial reports.
- Business District Grants—11 projects completed/15 projects outstanding
- HCL Economic Development—no current qualifying factors for TIF
- Comprehensive Plan—Council will meet with Adam Stroud March 5th at 6:30pm.
- Approve an ordinance Tuesday amending the previous ordinance to reschedule the public hearing for Business District 1 & 3 amendments.
- Infrastructure Grant—in review with members of DCO

CITY COLLECTOR:

- VFit purchased BUFF last year. The city's membership for employees will end February 28th. VFit is offering city employees 50% off memberships going forward.
- Budget meeting—scheduled for March 23rd at 6pm. Supervisors should turn in budgets by March 1st.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- Doug will have personnel training for all supervisors starting March 1st.
- Doug sent out employee and self-evaluation forms that should be written annually.

ZONING:

- Jeff reported that Justin Jones is working on repairing the fence at McKay Manor.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Fox2News is interviewing Kevin at Bonnies Café at 7:15am on Friday morning for their "In Your Neighborhood" segment.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Non-verbatim minutes taken by: _____
Jackie Hummert, City Clerk