

**CITY OF RED BUD, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025**
Red Bud City Hall
City Council Chambers

The City Council of Red Bud, Randolph County, Illinois met on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at the Red Bud City Hall, Council Chambers.

Members Present: Mayor Susan Harbaugh, Bryce Parsons, Curt Guebert, Patrick Mueller, Bill Hanebutt, Jeremy DeMond, Rodney Nevois, Kyle Donjon, Alan Piel

Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Attorney Rebecca Cooper, City Superintendent Josh Eckart, Code Admin./City Engineer Jeff Mueller, Police Chief John Brittingham, Administrative Officer Jill Landgraf, City Clerk Joanne Cowell

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Susan Harbaugh

III. Roll Call by City Clerk Joanne Cowell

IV. Approval of Financial Statements

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve the Financial Statements as presented and file for audit. The vote was as follows: Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye; Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Estimated and Listed Bills

Motion made by Council Member Mueller, seconded by Council Member DeMond to approve the estimated and listed bills. The vote was as follows: Guebert, aye; Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye. Motion carried.

VI. Consideration of any Additional Bills

None

VII. Correspondence, Public and Guest Comments

A. Matt Wagner, 1221 Flint Street, addressed the council regarding incorrectly read or incorrectly estimated water usage. Mr. Wagner's water and sewer bill for August was \$1,489.77 for 136,000 gallons of water. This is more water usage than he had for the entire 2024 calendar year. Superintendent Eckart read the meter and found it to be correct. Mr. Wagner said he had no water

leaks nor any unusual water usage. After Mr. Wagner was told that the bill was correct, he requested information about an appeals process and was told to contact his alderman, Bryce Parsons and found out that there is no formal appeals procedure. Mr. Wagner became aware of the “catch-up month” process where the meter is read one month, estimated the next, and read the next month. He feels this causes massive adjustments in water bills, causing confusion for all and financial insecurity for some. Mr. Wagner came to two key findings: 1. That if the city is not willing to commit resources to accurately read water usage meters, the bills cannot be trusted to be accurate. 2. During the time when Mr. Wagner was in the so-called appeals process, he was billed \$86.43 in non-payment penalties. He feels that he was penalized for following the appeals process, as instructed. Mr. Wagner feels that the city has a flawed process which leads to an unfair outcome, where meters cannot be read accurately and in a timely manner. Mr. Wagner encouraged this council to find a solution to the issue.

VIII. Consent Agenda—Items Originated at Committee Level

Please note: Items with ** were removed from the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda – Items Originated at Committee Level as Indicated in ()

- A. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2025
Authorization of approval of the minutes from the City Council Meeting of October 6, 2025

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- B. Approval of \$692.40 Sewer Adjustment Request – 817 E. Olive St. (Public Works)
Authorization of approval of a sewer bill adjustment for Stephanie Kelley at 817 E. Olive Street in the amount of \$692.40, for a water leak, which did not enter the sewer system

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- C. Approval of Lead and Copper Sampling Coupons (40 Sites @\$10/Each) and \$10 Coupons for Additional Samplings as Required (Public Works)
Authorization of approval to issue \$10 coupons at forty sites and \$10 coupons for additional lead and copper samplings, as required

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- D. Approval to End Max Wolter's 6-Month Probationary Period, Effective October 26, 2025 (Public Works)
Authorization of approval to end Max Wolter's six-month probationary period, effective October 26, 2025

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- E. Approval to End Zach Grohmann's 6-Month Probationary Period, Effective October 25, 2025 (Public Works)
Authorization of approval to end Zach Grohmann's six-month probationary period, effective October 25, 2025

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- F. Approval of Ditch Witch Unit #15 Trencher Replacement Proposal, NTE \$45,000, Including Trade-In (Public Works)
Authorization of approval of the quote from Ditch Witch for replacement of the trencher, Unit #15, NTE \$45,000, including trade-in

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- G. Approval of Vermeer Midwest Unit #30 Vacuum Excavator Replacement Proposal, NTE \$135,333 (Public Works)
Authorization of approval of the quote from Vermeer Midwest for replacement of the vacuum excavator, Unit #30, NTE \$135,333, with the existing unit to be sold on GovDeals.com

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- H. Authorization for Mayor Harbaugh and City Superintendent Josh Eckart to Attend the 2026 APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, DC (Public Works)
Authorization of approval for Mayor Harbaugh and City Superintendent Josh Eckart to attend the 2026 APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, DC, with IMEA reimbursing the city for airfare and hotel costs

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye;

DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- I. Approval to Accept RMA Insurance Renewal as Presented (Finance)
Authorization of approval of the Risk Management Association invoice in the amount of \$246,570.93 for worker's compensation and general liability insurance for January 1, 2026 - 2027

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- J. Approval of FY'25 Audit Results (Finance)
Authorization of approval of the FY'25 audit results

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- K. Approval to Apply for Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Development Grant (Finance)
Authorization of approval to apply for the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Development Grant, which is due December 1, 2025

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- L. Approval of Blinds Unlimited City Hall Blinds Proposal, NTE \$16,500 (Finance)
Authorization of approval of the proposal from Blinds Unlimited for city hall blinds, NTE \$16,500

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- M. Approval of Donation of \$300 to Red Bud History Museum for Historical Plaques for the YMCA Building and Preston Brickey Homestead (Eagle Stone Property) (Finance)
Authorization of approval to donate \$300 to the Red Bud Area Museum to pay for the historical plaques for the YMCA building and at the approximate site of the Preston Brickey homestead (Eagle Stone property)

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor

Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- N. Approval of Jill Landgraf to Attend Downstate City/County Management Association Fall Meeting on December 4-5, 2025, in Bloomington, IL, NTE \$500 (Personnel)

Authorization of approval to send Jill Landgraf to training entitled "Downstate City/County Management Association Fall Meeting" on December 4-5, 2025, in Bloomington, IL, NTE \$500; registration fee, travel and lodging are required

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

- O. Approval of FFA's Request to Host the Hot Chocolate Run on November 28, 2025 (Cultural)

Authorization of approval of the request from the Red Bud FFA to hold the Hot Chocolate Run on November 28, 2025, in conjunction with the Holiday Lighted Parade, with the city providing barricades and cones, as needed, and to allow FFA Alumni to help barricade the route to ensure the safety of the runners

Motion made by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Parsons to approve under the omnibus designation, the consent agenda, as read by Mayor Harbaugh, items A through O. The vote was as follows: Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye. Motion carried.

IX. Reports of Standing Committees, Departments and Other Committees, Boards & Commissions

- A. Finance Committee - Meeting October 20, 2025

1. Maturing CDs
Nothing to report

2. Regional Site Readiness Program
Mayor Harbaugh said that one of the two large grants which the city received for the RBBP came from the Regional Site Readiness Program. They are accepting new grant requests entitled #2. The city is eligible to apply for a grant up to five million dollars under "Capital Ready" and applications are being accepted on a rolling basis starting December 1, 2025, until funds are exhausted. Superintendent Eckart has a couple of large items, which would be eligible. The items are electric substation, and gas regulator station to help sustain the system in the east end of town. These items are currently on the five-year plan list. This is an 80/20% grant.

Motion made by Council Member Donjon, seconded by Council Member Hanebutt, to authorize approval to apply for the Regional Site Readiness Program Phase #2 Grant.

The vote was as follows: Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye; Mueller, aye. Motion carried.

- B. Personnel Committee - Meeting October 20, 2025
Nothing to report
- C. Public Health & Safety Committee - Meeting October 20, 2025
Nothing to report
- D. Cultural Committee – Meeting October 20, 2025
Nothing to report
- E. Public Works Committee - Meeting October 20, 2025
 - 1. Sewer Adjustment Request – 228 Clarence Dr.

Motion made by Council Member Guebert, seconded by Council Member Mueller, to authorize approval for a sewer bill adjustment for Mark Kaiser at 228 Clarence Drive in the amount of \$60.49, for a water leak which did not enter the sewer system. The vote was as follows: DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye; Hanebutt, aye; Mueller, aye. Motion carried.

- 2. Approval to Hire Part-Time Meter Reader
Council Member Nevois questioned whether it would be better to hire one full-time meter reader, given the recent issues with misread meters and inaccurate utility bills. Eckart said that the issue with incorrect readings has been corrected by rearranging some of the personnel and this would be a timing issue under our current billing cycle. Mayor Harbaugh suggested further discussion on this during the budgeting process.

Motion made by Council Member Guebert, seconded by Council Member Hanebutt, to authorize approval to hire Travis Krick as part-time meter reader at \$18.10/hour, pending physical and drug screen results. The vote was as follows: Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye; Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye. Motion carried.

- F. Zoning Committee - Meeting October 20, 2025
Nothing to report
- G. Recreational Facilities – Meeting October 20, 2025
 - 1. Pool Post Season Repairs
Superintendent Eckart said he had spoken with the IDPH Director, who said that if a full pipe replacement in the filter room were done, that would require an IDPH permit, which would also require using an IDPH certified contractor. Ehret is not IDPH certified. If it is just maintenance item, no permit is required, and the city can use a contractor of their choosing. Based on this information, Eckart is recommending going forward with the deck drains piping replacement, the supply lines piping, and the concrete removal/replacement, as proposed by Ehret Plumbing at an estimated cost of \$43,766. The pool will also need to be painted, estimated at \$23,000.

Motion made by Council Member Donjon, seconded by Council Member Hanebutt, to authorize approval to accept the proposal from Ehret for the post season repairs to the concrete and plumbing as outlined, NTE \$43,766. The vote was as follows: Donjon, aye; Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye; Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye. Motion carried.

H. Executive Session Minutes Review Committee – No Meeting
Nothing to report

I. Planning Commission – No Meeting

1. Approval of Ordinance No. 1562 – Mike Henry Special Use Permit

Motion made by Council Member Piel, seconded by Council Member Mueller, to authorize approval of ORDINANCE NO. 1562: “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT UNDER TITLE XVII, CHAPTER 173 OF THE CITY OF RED BUD CODE OF ORDINANCES 2021” to Mike Henry at 214 West Olive Street. The vote was as follows: Piel, aye; Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye; Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Ordinance No. 1563 – Craig Stamm Variance

Motion made by Council Member Piel, seconded by Council Member Hanebutt, to authorize approval of ORDINANCE NO. 1563: “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE UNDER TITLE XVII, CHAPTER 173 OF THE CITY OF RED BUD CODE OF ORDINANCES 2021” to Craig Stamm at 210 Kennedy Drive. The vote was as follows: Parsons, aye; Guebert, aye; Mueller, aye; Hanebutt, aye; DeMond, aye; Nevois, aye; Donjon, aye; Piel, aye. Motion carried.

J. Economic Development Commission – No Meeting
Nothing to report

K. Parks and Recreation Committee – Meeting October 1, 2025
The October 1, 2025, minutes are included in the packet.

X. Old Business
None

XI. New Business

A. Review of November Calendar

Planning Commission will be finalizing the review of the Comprehensive Plan at the November 18th meeting.

B. Other Comments

Council Member Piel asked how it is possible to use 141,000 gallons of water. Superintendent Eckart said that this was not one of the meters in the problem area. He also had someone in Knotty Pines use 167,000 gallons because they left a hose on. It was dripping in the crack between the concrete pads, and you could not see it. Eckart found it when he checked the meter, and it was running. Eckart said that they went out and read Mr. Wagner’s meters several times and the meter showed that 141,000 gallons had run through the meter in a 55-day period. Eckart said that a gallon of water used a minute will use

43,000 gallons a month. There is no way to tell if a toilet was sticking. The meter seems to back in normal usage now, according to his past usage. There are no water leaks showing up on the service line. Water meters only register when water is going through them. Eckart offered to have the meter tested, according to policy, or to replace the meter. Eckart said Wagner's previous monthly usage was fairly consistent. This was not a meter reading error; the bill was calculated on the actual reading.

Eckart was asked to: 1. Change out the meter to a new one; 2. Remove any late fees (Eckart thinks this has been done); 3. Create a form or written process for an appeal; 4. Test the meter at the city's expense.

Piel and Nevois voiced a desire to have the water meters read every month. What are the cost-savings to read the water meters every other month? What is the process/cost involved in remote/electronic meter reading? Electric and gas meters are read every month.

C. Adjournment

Motion made at 6:44 P.M. by Council Member Hanebutt, seconded by Council Member Mueller, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was as follows: all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne G. Cowell, City Clerk
Red Bud, Illinois