

**Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2025
Red Bud City Hall
Council Chambers (2nd floor)**

Committee Members Present: Patrick Mueller, Bill Hanebutt, Rodney Nevois

Committee Members Absent: Jeremy DeMond, Alan Piel

Council Members Present: Bryce Parsons, Curt Guebert, Kyle Donjon

Council Members Absent: None

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Old Business

None

New Business

I. Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2025

Recommendation made by Committee Member Nevois, seconded by Committee Member Hanebutt, to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2025, meeting. Carried

II. CD Information

A. Maturing CDs
None

III. Financial Dashboard

Chairman Mueller noted that the city is at 50% of the fiscal year, the revenue is at 56% and the expenses are at 32%. Cash in checking is \$1,123,350.69.

IV. Holiday Gift Certificates for Employees

Recommendation made by Committee Member Nevois, seconded by Committee Member Hanebutt, to approve purchasing holiday gift certificates for full-time employees @ \$125/each and part-time employees @ \$75/each, per schedule presented, for a total of \$5,825. Carried

V. Health Insurance Renewal

Finance Officer Cowell reviewed the health insurance renewal proposal as prepared by ECG. The network for BCBS of Illinois is as large as the current UHC plan and the benefits are comparable, while offering a savings of \$68,071.80 annually.

Recommendation made by Committee Member Nevois, seconded by Committee Member Hanebutt, to approve accepting the proposal from Einstein Consulting Group, LLC for

employee health insurance coverage through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois in the amount of \$514,651.44 annually, based on the current employee census. Carried

VI. Tax Levy Ordinance No. 1564

Finance Officer Cowell stated that the annual tax levy is based on an increase of 5% , with an estimated real estate tax income of \$791,997.

Recommendation made by Committee Member Hanebutt, seconded by Committee Member Nevois, to approve Tax Levy Ordinance NO. 1564, as presented and file with the Randolph County Clerk. Carried

VII. Boiler Policy

Finance Officer Cowell stated that the city had received a notification letter of nonrenewal from Cincinnati Insurance Company in early October that they were no longer going to insure the electric generators because this was the only insurance policy the city had with them. Liz reached out to IRMA and Josh Eckart has an appointment with Travelers' representatives to do a risk assessment walk through on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. The current policy expires December 1, 2025, and has cost \$15,660/year for a three-year policy. There is no option to continue insurance for a brief period since Cincinnati gave the required notice. Liz will let the council know as soon as she receives a quote.

Recommendation made by Committee Member Hanebutt, seconded by Committee Member Nevois, to approve moving ahead with IRMA - Travelers Insurance for the boiler policy, pending results of the risk assessment walk through. Carried

VIII. Proposed Use of Grant Funds for the Energy Transition Community Grant

Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Mueller, seconded by Committee Member Nevois, to approve using the funds from the Energy Transition Community Grant and the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Development Grant to repair/replace the twenty-one hydrants as outlined by Superintendent Eckart. Carried

XI. Regional Site Readiness Round II

This is Phase II of the same grant that the city received for the RBBP. Admin. Officer Landgraf said that the city has been encouraged to apply for this grant. This would be an 80/20% grant. Mayor Harbaugh and the administrative staff discussed projects and are suggesting an electric substation (\$6.19M) at the RBBP, or a natural gas regulator station (\$1.1M), from the Blackjack station, go behind Miller's Meat Market, follow the pole line behind the lagoon and end up by the RBBP and it would require property easements. Eckart would like to work on getting the property easements because the city will need them eventually, if not now. Jill Landgraf also noted that this is a two-year grant and will find out how strict the completion date is. The water tower painting/repairs is not an eligible project for this grant. This is all informational. No action taken.

X. Chamber Feature Item

The Red Bud Chamber would like to put a feature item at the flower bed at the city parking lot by TuLaynes. They would like to have this installed by the America250 celebrations. The feature, "THE BUD" would be five to six feet tall. Concerns were made that Henry Thielen Funds were used to build the flower bed; could it be structurally safe at this location, will it take away from the downtown look, would Finley Park near the library or the front of the library, or Ratz Park, be a better place, if it is moved behind the wall, how much parking space is being lost. Most liked the

idea of the sign, just not sure about the location. Council Member Donjon said he would go with whatever was decided, but Waterloo has already done this, and he is not a fan and would like to see the wall stay as it is. Committee Member Nevois will contact Cole Stenzel to discuss this further. Council Member Guebert thinks it is too big. Committee Member Hanebutt suggested that if it were at another location and put on a slab, that the city could do some landscaping to make it a pocket park.

XI. Public Comments/Anything for the Good of the City

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne G. Cowell, City Clerk
Red Bud, Illinois