

**Public Works Committee Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2026
Red Bud City Hall
Council Chambers (2nd floor)**

Committee Members Present: Curt Guebert, Bill Hanebutt, Rodney Nevois, Kyle Donjon

Committee Members Absent: Bryce Parsons

Council Members Present: Patrick Mueller, Jeremy DeMond

Council Members Absent: Alan Piel

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

Others Absent: City Clerk Joanne Cowell

Committee Chairman Guebert called the meeting to order at 6:48 P.M.

Old Business

I. Power Plant

- A. Plant Report
Eckart said the generation runs were not scheduled, but they were called to generate last Wednesday evening for four to five hours, due to market conditions.

II. Utilities/Streets

- A. Electric
Work has begun on the electric and gas installation in the Red Bud Business Park. Eckart is working on materials orders because of the long lead time.
- B. Gas
Work has begun on the electric and gas installation in the Red Bud Business Park.
- C. Water
Nothing
- D. Sewer
The IEPA gave a good report back on the sewer inspection.
- E. Streets
The overlay project was completed last week, with a planned final walk-through punch list with Samron planned. Huebner will begin the sidewalk patching projects next week.

III. Succession Planning – Request Authorization to Start Hiring Process for Facilities Leadman Position

Eckart anticipates moving someone up to the leadman position and needing to hire that replacement. Eckart did not have a definite retirement date for Jeff Koester, he is requesting to get a time frame in order and will keep the council informed of his plan through the weekly updates. Committee Member Hanebutt does not think there is a need for a long training period.

Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Nevois to authorize approval to start the hiring process for the Facilities Leadman position. Carried

IV. Annual CPI Utility Rate Increases

Superintendent Eckart explained the Annual Rate Increase Consideration sheet that he included in the packet. HMG Engineers recommended that the water and sewer rates be 1-1½% of the median household income. Red Bud is currently way below this. The CPI increases would allow for small rate increases rather than one large rate to help close the gap. This is for informational purposes.

V. AMI Metering Project

Superintendent Eckart presented a cost breakdown over a five-year period for installation and purchase of the AMI metering system. Eckart will continue to work with Fletcher-Reinhardt to bring this project forward and identify the resources to fund it. The current budget has an electric allocation of \$150,000 and a gas allocation of \$50,000 toward this project.

New Business

I. Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes – Meeting June 15, 2026

Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Nevois to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2026, meeting. Carried

II. Approval of Bid for Rock Hill/Theodore Street Improvements Project – Huebner Concrete Construction, Inc. for \$61,182.00

Recommendation made by Committee Member Nevois, seconded by Committee Chairman Guebert to authorize approval to accept the bid from Huebner Concrete Construction, Inc. for the culvert work on Rock Hill/Theodore for \$61,182.00 and affix the appropriate signatures. Carried

III. Water Operator Training – Short School of Other Opportunities

Superintendent Eckart stated that Joe Ledlow had taken the operator exam and received 63%; 70% is needed for a pass grade. Eckart is requesting two options: attending a short school, which was previously unavailable due to lack of teachers, or using Water Works Services for hands-on, on-site training. Ledlow will not move to the full pay rate until he obtains his Operator A license.

Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Nevois to authorize approval to move forward with the water operator training as it becomes available, and keep the council informed of the process. Carried

IV. ITEP Grant Resolution 26-006

Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Hanebutt to authorize approval of RESOLUTION NO. 26-006: "A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

(ITEP) GRANT APPLICATION FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS FROM LINCOLN PARK TO RATZ PARK” and affix appropriate signatures. Carried

V. Approval of Metro-Ag Contract for Sludge Removal

Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Donjon to authorize approval to accept the contract with Metro-Ag for sludge removal for August 3, 2026 – December 31, 2027. Carried

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

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne G. Cowell, City Clerk
Red Bud, Illinois