

Regular Finance Committee Meeting

City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday November 20th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Donley at 7:00 pm.

Alders present: Calloway, Bertolino, Carter, Neighbors, Karrick, Matrisch, Boster and Donley,

Absent: None

Also present: Mayor Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint and Bookkeeper/Treasurer Barry Liss

Audience in attendance: Mike Marsaglia commented that his October water bill was \$103. His previous bills normally averaged approximately \$25 to \$30 and believes there were no unusual water usages or leaks. He said that he had talked to the Water Office and was told the Water Office can only bill as to what the computer says. He stated he felt the error may be due to the installation of the new water meter system. Mayor Murphy responded: the city will look over his billing again. Bertolino stated that he will talk to the Director of Public Works and the Water Office and have somebody get back to him on the matter.

Topics:

1. Approval of minutes 10-23-25

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to approve the Finance Committee Minutes of 10-23-25.

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Treasures report (October)

The October Treasurer Report was presented by Barry Liss.

Barry stated that October was a very good month for revenue.

Distributions 1 and 2 from Macoupin County came in, Corporate tax \$146,000 and Road and Bridge \$22,000.

Demolition grant of \$30,767 came in and there is approximately \$30,000 yet to come in (from the 911 house grant reimbursement forms not due till the 29th of November).

Water profit for the month was \$14,000 and \$77,000 year to date.

Corporate and water profit is \$251,000.

Bertolino pointed out the Attorney fee are over the budget amount due to the VSD.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Boster to take the October Treasurers Report to the Council for approval.

Motion: passed with all in favor

3. Presentation and Q&A of the 2024-25 Audit

Brentan Hickman of RW Hickman gave a call in audio presentation of the audit findings.

The audit provided a clean opinion; financial statements presented fairly in all material aspects as of April 30th, 2025.

Current assets decrease mainly in cash drops, investments increased.

Water fund owed general fund \$604,348 a decrease from last year.

Capital assets increase due to equipment purchases and upgrades.

Deferred outflows for pensions decreased.

Liabilities account payable up (new water meters) other liabilities up moderately.

Revenue: the general fund revenue rose \$7,028, variants in taxes and interest.

Expenditures: general fund spending is up \$24,000, the biggest rise was in police salaries.

Attorney fees increased \$28,000.

Water department assets down \$37,175 mainly due to the decreased receivables.

Liabilities up due to new water meter purchases.

Revenues up expenditures notably employee benefits.

Professional fees higher.

Water purchases is down.

The council was encouraged to review the audit details and reach out with any questions.

Mayor Murphy asked, "is the City doing ok per the audit?"

Brentan answered "Yes the audit is comparable to prior years. There were a lot of high dollar improvements made in the city. The city is not in the business of making a profit only to make improvements and maintain and, Yes the city is doing Great."

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to take the 2024-25 Audit to the Council for approval

Motion: passed with all in favor

4. ICRMT property and casualty and workman's comp

A previous meeting between Mayor Murphy, Karen, the Dimond Brothers (Craig, and Kim Thomas) was discussed, the meeting revealed that the overall rate has decreased

slightly. The prior policy was \$132,170 for 11 months (\$12,015.46 monthly), this policy is \$142,028 for 12 months (\$11,835.67 monthly).

The council reviewed itemized equipment/buildings valuations (some discrepancies were noted and clarified).

Payment plan options were discussed (annual, two payments, or 25% down and the balance in six installments).

There was a concern of lack of comparative bids, only one proposal was reviewed due to the urgent deadline (agreement must be signed by the 1st of December.)

Bertolino commented that the Chairperson of the Finance and Administrative committees need to step up, the Mayor should delegate more, as not everything should fall on the shoulders of the Mayor. That is why the committees were formed.

It was recommended to seek at least one additional bid, if possible, given the time constraints.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Mayor Murphy to take to the council (unless another bid comes in due to the lack of other bids and time constraints) the renewal of ICRMT Property, Casualty and Workman's Comp bid to the council for approval.

Motion: passed with all in favor

5. MFT budget and appropriation

Mayor Murphy brought to the council attention the ongoing confusion about the MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) budgeting and appropriations timing between the fiscal and calendar year misalignment. The plan is to clarify budgeting with Benton Engineering. No further action is needed at this time.

6. Discuss funding of Northwest Drainage Project for hearing on the 1st of December

The plan is to let the public know we will be using corporate funds and, if it does not cover it all, then one or more of the CDs will need to be cashed in to cover the city's share of upcoming grant-funded projects.

7. Tax Levy

Mayor Murphy explain the background on the levy process and the prior year's allocations, by category: Corporate, Social Security, IMRF, and Police Protection. The proposal is to request the maximum allowable, 4.9% increase for general corporate and police protection. 3% for Social Security and to keep IMRF the same.

Discussion: on the calculations and trimming process by Macoupin and Sangamon counties.

Limits imposed and revenue pressures due to the inflation costs.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to take the 4.9% Tax Levy ordinance which request \$ 96,750 for General Corporate purposes, \$73,960 for Social Security taxes, \$42,750 for IMRF and \$14,647 for Police Protection, for total of \$228,107 to the council for approval.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Additionally:

1. The new ORI (Originating Agency Identifier) number has not been received yet.
2. Correction to the employee contribution figures: employees to pay \$99.53 per pay period under the renewal (\$215.65 per month).
Prior committee voted to renew with Blue Cross Blue Shield cost 60/40 split.

Discussion: about the legalities and feasibility of paying employees to opt out of the city's insurance plan to join spouse's plan; found to be not legally permissible.

Insurance committee meeting planned but not expecting new findings before renewal date.

Motion: to adjourn made by Boster seconded by Karrick at 8:23 pm.

Motion: passed with all in favor.

Jon Myint
City Clerk
Date Approved: