

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
May 14, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on May 14, 2018 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by invocation offered by Rev. Kenin Smith with Hope Community Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, Rick Odle; George Cover; City Attorney Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Fire Chief Bob Graves; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Ernest Watson, Jr. and Park Supt. Joe Effinger were absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Shawn Cain with KIRPC; Tracy Cochran with Purdue Wellness; Brandon Schreeg and Ken Remenschneider with Kimley-Horn (formerly Remenschneider Associates); Rev. Kenin Smith with Hope Community Church; Brian Wood and Shane Whaley with National Gypsum; Bobbi Jo Sammons with Main Street Rensselaer; County Councilman Rein Bontreger; Judy Kanne; Ryan and Janelle Musch .

The minutes of the April 23, 2018 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Tracy Cochran with Purdue Wellness: Cochran said she is a Purdue Extension Community Wellness Coordinator. She works with diet quality and physical activity. She needs to assess a minimum of thirteen sites. Obesity is a problem in Jasper County. She tries to make the healthy choice the easy choice. She coordinates school and workplace wellness.

Public Hearing: Downtown Revitalization Plan: There was a motion by Odle, second by Barton, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent. Schreeg explained that the public hearing is for the Downtown Revitalization Master Plan. He presented a thorough slide show of the plans for downtown revitalization one plan at a time. Tonight they are asking for council to adopt the plan. Cover asked about planters and benches and also saw trees. He asked if these are ornamental or large trees. Schreeg said it is a combination of the two. The concept is making sure the lowest branches are high enough that you can still see the signage and store fronts. Cover said Purdue came in several years ago and planted trees. Those large trees actually blocked the storefronts and uprooted the sidewalk. Janelle Musch thinks the plan is lovely. Wood said the plan is going to depend on money. Ryan Musch asked council what its thought is. Barton said this is the first time he's seen the plan. Judy Kanne said she is excited to see these plans and hope that whether the plan is started small or grand, she would like to see something happen. Cover asked about the brick streets. Remenschneider said the curbing is being moved in and allows them to take them up and lay them on a firm base for the brick street. Wood said that area is a TIF District and TIF Funds could maybe be used. Cain said this plan has been made more solid by OCRA and we could do this in phases. OCRA and CDBG money is available. This was accomplished with a \$40,000 grant with the city putting in \$4,450. Remenschneider said they did Franklin's plan. Over a four year period they had fifty-nine new businesses and one hundred and forty some new jobs. Pickering said this is near and dear to Mainstreet's heart. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Wood asked for a motion to adopt the downtown revitalization plan. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to adopt the plan. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Resolution 13-2018, Downtown Revitalization Plan: Wood explained this is a resolution adopting the downtown revitalization plan. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Resolution 11-2018, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger said this transfer is for the LR&S Fund in the amount of \$11,000.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Resolution 12-2018, Gas Tracker: Lockridge reported to council that the gas tracker reflected a 4¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Power Plant Battery Replacement: Miller said they discovered the power plant battery failed during crane replacement and are asking to replace it. C and D quoted a price of \$26,522.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the purchase. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Weston Cemetery Engineering Proposal: Wood said we are looking at replacing the building. He would like to table this as he's meeting with another firm. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to table this. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Tax Abatements: The tax abatement compliance committee met on May 1st. They recommend approving all compliance forms.

- 1) CF-1 Form for ConAgra Foods Real Property 2007.
- 2) CF-1 Form for ConAgra Foods Real Property 2014.
- 3) CF-1 Form for ConAgra Foods Personal Property 2008.
- 4) CF-1 Form for ConAgra Foods Personal Property 2014.
- 5) CF-1 Form for American Melt Blown Personal Property.
- 6) CF-1 Form for Genova Products Personal Property.
- 7) CF-1 Form for IMPA Personal Property 2014.
- 8) CF-1 Form for National Gypsum Personal Property.
- 9) CF-1 Form for National Gypsum Real Property.

There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the tax abatement compliance forms as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Cemetery Deed Request: Bretzinger read a cemetery deed request for Fred McEwan. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the deed request. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Dump Truck Replacement: Lockridge told council he wants to use the state bid to purchase a dump truck from W. A Jones Truck Equipment. This is a 2018 Freightliner with a snow plow. The cost is \$168,178.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the purchase. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Public Relations Request: Wood said an employee's mother passed away and he's requesting \$75.00 from the Public Relations Fund. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to order flowers and pay from Public Relations Fund. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Copier for Police Department: Smart said the police department will no longer have access to our copier once they move to their new station so she's asking for a new copier/fax machine/scanner for the police department to be purchased by the four utilities. She said justification would be that the police does emergency call-outs and 811 locate call outs. The police department will be responsible for maintenance agreements. The best quote she received was from Cardinal and the Ricoh MPC3004 was quoted at \$4,498.00. She received another quote from ICC in addition to the quotes she sent to council earlier but this was for a Kyocera CS 2552 (instead of a 3000 series) for \$5,000 and a used Kyocera 3050c for \$3,250. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to purchase the copier from Cardinal. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Barton had nothing.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover said the tree cutting looks good.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle had nothing.

Wood said May 24th will be the pre-construction meeting for the US 231/Mt. Calvary Road project.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve the claims. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said the Board of Zoning Appeals approved an assisted living facility to be located in Drexel Park. This is subject to closing on the property.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran said Memorial Day service May 28th at 11:00 a.m. at the cemetery. The Vietnam Memorial Wall is coming May 23rd. May 24th at 8:00 a.m. is set up and viewing starts at noon. They are still looking for volunteers.

Electric Dept.: Miller had nothing. Larson had nothing. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Graves said the board hired three new probationary firefighters.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.


Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Anderson said painting is finished at police department. They will start hanging ceiling tile soon.

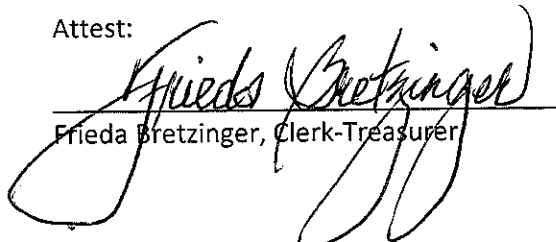
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels thanked everyone for help during clean up week. Lockridge said LGS is about 40% complete. He thanked council for allowing the purchase of a new dump truck. The fair board requested a sanitation truck the week of July 14-21 for the fair. We bill them for trash once the fair is over. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the use of the garbage truck.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent, and was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer