

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
January 09, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on January 9, 2017 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. Marcia Smith-Wood 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, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Fire Chief and Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Asst. Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were: Jim Shanley; John Julien with Umbaugh; Stace Pickering with C/I; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Mr. and Mrs. Steve Miller; Bill Wornhoff; Cody Reynolds with Congressman Todd Rokita's Office.

The minutes of the December 27, 2016 council meeting were presented and unanimously approved by a motion by Barton and second by Odle.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Jim Shanley asked to discuss the Biddle Subdivision which started in 2004. The fifty-two lot subdivision was approved. Many issues have come up and problems have been corrected. He said a city computer sent a message to IDEM and an employee at IDEM contacted the Army Corps of Engineers in South Bend. That gentleman told him he had to start over. He has a lot that someone wants to purchase and the closing is supposed to be January 27th. The only thing he wants is help from the city to figure this out. Cover suggested a meeting with Shanley, Lockridge, Haun, Odle and Cover.

Public Hearing for Ordinance 25-2016, Electric Rate Ordinance: There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Wood asked if anyone has any comments. Julien said this recommends rates that Umbaugh has suggested and they have prepared an ordinance. It's about a 6% increase. This ordinance will also void the tracking factor for the first quarter of 2017 that was passed at the last meeting. It will resume for the second quarter of 2017. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Electric Utility Rate Ordinance: Wood said this was introduced at the last meeting and passed on first reading. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to pass second and third readings. The motion passed and the ordinance was passed. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 25-2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 01-2017, Gas Tracker: Carol Lockridge said this reflects an 11¢ per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Offer of Employment: Wood announced he made an offer of employment to Steve Miller. Wood polled council and all approved. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to ratify council poll by Wood. The motion passed unanimously. Miller will start at \$2,962.00 bi-weekly figuring out to \$77,012.00 annually. His starting date is January 23, 2017. Wood asked that an amendment to the salary ordinance be prepared to reflect the increase. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to prepare the salary amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments: Barton had nothing. Bretzinger had nothing. Cover had nothing. Hollerman had nothing. Odle had nothing. Watson had nothing. Wood had nothing.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the claims. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said the year-end report has been sent out. He asked if Shanley's committee could meet Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. All agreed. Haun is to notify Shanley.

Electric Dept.: Larson and Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Carol Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing. Odle asked about the Clark Street house and he's in contact with Mr. Dumas. The Rex Blacker Trust will purchase the house and then gift it to the city.

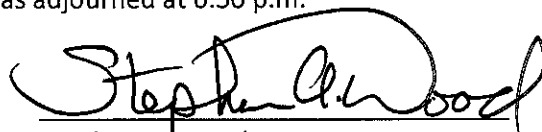
Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Phillips told council that the Board of Public Works approved a chaplain program for the police department.

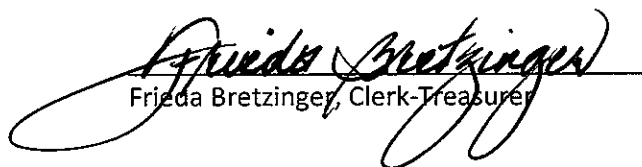
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels had a lot of cardboard in recycling. Lockridge said the Wet Weather Treatment Plant is 75% complete. The project is on schedule.

Utility Office: Smart said they are running parallel with the new and old systems.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer