

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
March 27, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on March 27, 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. Elizabeth Hartman with the First Christian 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, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Fire Chief and Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; 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; Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Park Supt. Joe Effinger was absent.

Also in attendance were: Emily Albaugh with KIRPC; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Vince Sommers with Commonwealth Engineers; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO and Director of Tourism and Community Relations Rochelle Winstead.

The minutes of the March 13, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Kevin Kelly introduced Rochelle Winstead, the new Director of Tourism and Community Relations. Wood took a moment to recognize Mick Odom. Odom was a former council member and a Viet Nam veteran.

Public Hearing for OCRA Grant: There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Albaugh said she is the grant writer for the city's application to OCRA for a new water well and transmission line. She explained that the city is applying for a \$550,000.00 OCRA grant for the Water Well #8 Project. We should find out by June 1st if we received the grant. The local match is \$975,100.00 making the total project \$1,525,100.00. Sommers said the project includes a \$1,000 gallon per minute (gpm) well and well house, 6,500 linear feet of 12" transmission main, demolition of Well #2, replace existing service connections and sidewalk replacement. Hollerman asked about time frame. Albaugh and Sommers said it will probably be bid out in the fall with completion next summer. There was no public comment. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing for Additional Appropriation Ordinance 04-2017: There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Bretzinger told council this public hearing is for an additional appropriation to appropriate funds in the amount of \$746,649.00 in the LOIT Special Distribution Fund. There was no public comment. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to close the public hearing and open the regular council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 04-2017, LOIT Special Distribution Additional Appropriation: Bretzinger said this ordinance is to appropriate \$746,649.00 in the LOIT Special Distribution Fund. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve Ordinance 04-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 06-2017, Authorizing Application Submission and Local Match Commitment: Wood said this resolution is for council to authorize the grant application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and that the City commits \$975,100.00 in local funding in the form of a bond. There was a motion by Watson, second by Barton, to approve Resolution 06-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 07-2017, Water System Improvement to be Financed by Bonds: Wood read the resolution stating that the city is to proceed to issue bonds up to a maximum of \$975,100.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve Resolution 07-2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 08-2017, Electric Tracker: Miller told council that the tracker is \$0.004962 per KWH which is a decrease of \$0.016926. He added that the average household using 1,000 KWH is will reflect a \$16.93 decrease. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve Resolution 08-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Tree Removal Recommendation: Lockridge said he requested quotes from two companies for the removal of 32 trees. One did not respond. He received a quote from Practical Tree Service for \$26,500.00. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve the quote. Barton voted nay. The motion passed by majority.

Utility Office Computer Tower Replacement: Smart said her office computer towers are starting to experience problems. She presented quotes for five towers for \$4,360.50. This will also require an upgrade of Microsoft Office for \$1,900.00 and \$250.00 for anti-virus. With Eric's cost to set everything up the total cost is just under \$7,500.00. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

Permission to Obtain Quotes for Cemetery Parking Lot: Cochran said there is no parking in the cemetery and he would like to put in a seven-car parking lot. Bretzinger said she talked to Lockridge about money budgeted in CCI Fund for streets and since we received special distribution funds and grant money there would be no need for it. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to instruct Cochran to get quotes. The motion passed unanimously.

Permission to Look Into Traveling Viet Nam War Memorial: Cochran said there are four traveling walls. They are displayed for five days, day and night. He is trying to get private donations to completely fund the display. The cost is \$8,000.00 to start off. We also have to pay for hotel. We are looking at having it here around Memorial Day of 2018. Wood said the American Legion and VFW are willing to help. He's looking at displaying it at the park. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to move forward with the traveling wall. The motion passed unanimously.

Gas Dept. Open House Public Relations Request: Carol Lockridge requested up to \$1,200.00 from Public Relations Fund for the Open House on Friday, April 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. 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 said the Little 500 is April 22nd. They are expecting between 4,000 and 6,000 people.

Wood said there will be a candlelight vigil at St. Joseph's College on April 3rd at the Chapel.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing.

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

Fire Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Carol Lockridge had nothing.

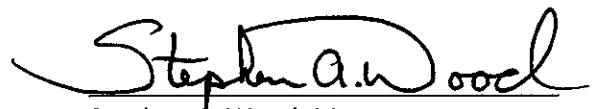
Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Police Dept.: Phillips had nothing.

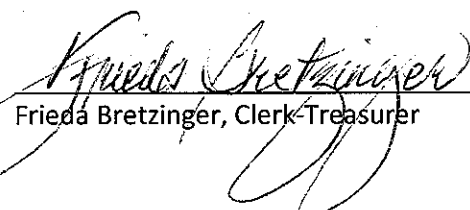
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said the high rate treatment plant will be starting up in the next few days. They are simulating a rain event Wednesday. They started putting up the steel at O'Reilly's today. Lockridge reported action of BPW at its meeting earlier tonight.

Utility Office: Smart said April 28th is also Arbor Day so there will be a tree planting at 4:00.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer