

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
May 22, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on May 22, 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. Lisa Ullrich with the Church of the Nazarene 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; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller was in City Hall but not present for roll call.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Phillip Lopresto with ISC; Kris Phillips; Rev. Lisa Ullrich with the Church of the Nazarene.

The minutes of the May 8, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Phillips had a request for a street closing on Weston Street from Angelica Street to Kellner Blvd on June 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a graduation open house. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the street closing as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing for Ordinance 07-2017, Additional Appropriation: There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Bretzinger said the ordinance is an additional appropriation within the Public Safety LOIT Fund in the amount of \$463,672.00 for the police station. She asked if there were any comments. Barton asked if a police station or city hall is the best use for the old fire station. Cover said that we held discussions and thought that it was the consensus of council to move the police station there. Odle said he wasn't sure if it was voted on but thought that through discussions, that's what it would be used for. Cover said that since they told the police to go ahead with architectural work done that as far as he's concerned, it's a done deal. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 07-2017, Additional Appropriation: This ordinance is an additional appropriation for the Public Safety LOIT Fund for the Police Station. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to pass Ordinance 07-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton opposing the motion.

Ordinance 09-2017, Amendment to Salary Ordinance 18-2017: This is to add "Summer Light Machine Operator" category in the Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage Departments. Barton verified that this position will not work more than 1,000 hours per year and Lockridge said that was correct. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 09-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Watt Substation Contract Labor Bid Opening: Only one bid was received and it was from Premier Power Maintenance and it was for \$499,700.00. \$409,784.00 is the city's portion and IMPA's portion is \$89,916.00. Riley declared the bid met all requirements. Lopresto said the engineer's estimate for labor was \$269,500.00 so it was decided to re-bid the project. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to re-bid the labor. The motion passed unanimously.

Ratify Council Poll of Resolution 13-2017 Correction: Wood said there was an error in the gas tracker and Wood told Smart to go ahead and use the correct figures. Riley said this was a Scrivener's error and is relatively minor and can be easily corrected. His understanding was that council was polled and that was the correct thing to do. Bretzinger polled council and received a unanimous aye vote. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the poll. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Tower Maintenance Proposal: Lockridge presented a proposal from Dixon Engineering for inspection services for the 200,000 gallon water tower. The basic agreement is \$2,100.00 and it includes cleaning the tank, inspection, prepare a report and chlorinate the tank. The second proposal is for the 400,000 gallon water tower. The basic agreement is for \$2,450.00 and includes cleaning the tank, inspection, prepare a report, and chlorinate the tank. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

Request Permission to Purchase Utility Tractor: Carol Lockridge requested permission to purchase a John Deere utility tractor for \$22,161.37 from Castognia's. The cost would be split between the gas, water and sewage departments. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Fund Request: Cochran requested purchasing water, ice and other incidentals from the Public Relations Fund for the Memorial Day service not to exceed \$100.00. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed Requests: Bretzinger had cemetery deed requests for Nancy Guenther, Margo Roberts, and Anthony and Debbie Baltes. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the requests. The motion passed unanimously.

School Board Member Appointment: Cover announced that the council interviewed three applicants for the school board on Thursday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m. Barton nominated Kristine Phillips and the nomination was seconded by Odle. The nomination was unanimously approved. Phillips said she's very thankful for another opportunity to serve.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Barton had nothing.

Bretzinger said a Frey representative will be here for training and to hopefully straighten out some of our software issues.

Cover said the streets look nice.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Wood said the Mayor's Holiday will be Monday, July 3rd this year. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve July 3rd as the Mayor's Holiday. The motion passed unanimously.

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 said Memorial Day celebration will be Monday, May 29th at 11:00 a.m. at Weston Cemetery.

Electric Dept.: Miller had nothing. Larson said they are in the process of rebuilding the 8th Street line. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Carol Lockridge said thanks for the tractor.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing. Cover asked about mosquito season preparation. Effinger said they went to training and are certified. Barton asked about the sale of the building. The sale proceeds are going to the Future Development Fund. Barton asked if the money would then be moved over to the park department. Wood said no. Cover said it can be. Bretzinger said we would have to do an additional appropriation and it would have to be spent before the end of the year. If it's not, it reverts back to the General Fund. Barton asked if the money can be earmarked for the park because there's a lot of projects they want to do. Odle said we have other departments besides the parks. Odle didn't feel it should all go to the park. Watson said if the park comes before council and asks for projects to be funded. Barton said it was agreed on that the money would go to the park and said that was the only way he would support the sale of the administration building.

Police Dept.: Phillips had nothing.

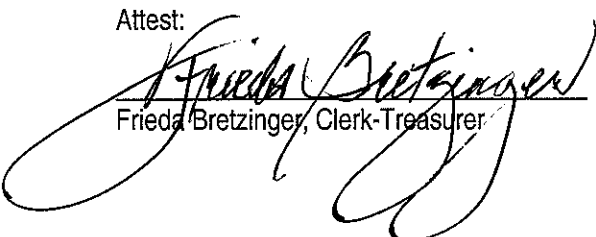
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said M. E. Simpson performed a leak survey for water. They found two water main leaks. They have been repaired. Lockridge had a request from the fair board to use a sanitation packer the week of July 14 to July 21 for Fair Week. We bill them for the trash. There was a motion by Watson, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously. Grace Street is complete and open.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

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


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer