

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
June 12, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on June 12, 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 Russ Overton and then by Rev. Elizabeth Hartmann 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, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Rick Odle; Fire Chief and Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow and Street Supt. Andy Daniels were not in attendance.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Phillip Lopresto with ISC; Russ Overton; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO.

The minutes of the May 22, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle not in attendance.

**Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:** Phillips had a request from the Fraternal Order of Eagles to close Harrison Street from Front to Van Rensselaer Street on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the EaglesFest fundraiser. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Odle not in attendance.

**Resolution 15-2017, Gas Tracker:** Lockridge told council that the tracker reflected a 6¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to pass Resolution 15-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**Resolution 16-2017, Transfer of Funds:** Bretzinger said this transfer of \$5,000.00 is for the police department as requested by Phillips. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve Resolution 16-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**Watt Substation Contract Labor Bid Opening:** Riley and Lopresto opened the bids. Power Construction bid \$339,965.00 and IMPA's portion was bid at \$85,195.00. Riley declared that the bid was in order. Premier Power bid \$389,784.00 and IMPA's portion was bid at \$81,716.00. Riley declared that the bid was in order. Lopresto provided a spreadsheet with overall information on the project, showing how much line items for the project are under or over budget. Looking at the Power Construction bid for labor the project is about \$154,000.00 over the engineer's estimate. But if you factor in the savings that we've had so far, we're still \$29,000.00 below what the engineer estimated. Lopresto suggested awarding it to Power Construction. Barton said in the cost savings the \$50,000.00 that IMPA is paying is showing up as our savings. Lopresto said the metering structure is deemed as excess facilities by NIPSCO and IMPA. Because of that, eventually the cost will be incurred by the city. He said they are paying for it for their accounting purposes because it's going to be something that they own but then they are going to bill Rensselaer so eventually the city will pay for it. Bretzinger said she wanted to understand that he was saying the city will be billed for the equipment by IMPA but IMPA will own it. Lopresto said he didn't believe the equipment would be owned by the city. Bretzinger asked by state law, how the city could pay for this equipment that belongs to IMPA. Lopresto said he will have to check on ownership. Bretzinger said she has a problem paying for something we aren't going to own. There was an agreement signed between IMPA, NIPSCO and the city. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve Rensselaer's portion and table IMPA's portion. Barton also wants this resolved in a public meeting; not by phone calls. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to move forward with the project. The motion passed by majority, with Odle not in attendance.

**First Group Agreement for Grant Assistance and Street Project for 2017:** Lockridge said this agreement is for an Asset Management Plan Update for a lump sum amount of \$9,000.00 and Bid Assistance lump sum amount of \$17,000.00 with the lump sum amounts not to exceed these estimates by 10% and if they do the consultant must first obtain the written approval of the city. There was a motion by

Watson, second by Cover, to approve the agreement as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**KIRPC Agreement for the Downtown Revitalization Plan:** This was tabled until the next meeting.

**Public Relations Fund Request:** Cover said the mayor's brother passed away last Friday. He had flowers sent from the council and would like to pay for them out of Public Relations Fund. Wood said it would be up to \$100.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**Bunkum Well Field Abandonment:** Lockridge apologized for the lateness of this item but he's been working with Peerless-Midwest for the last couple of weeks. Wells 3, 4 and 5 have not been used in over ten years and he would like to abandon the Bunkum well field and seal off Wells 3, 4 and 5. He would like to hire Peerless-Midwest for \$28,742.00 to seal the wells and the city remove the buildings. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to hire Peerless-Midwest to close the three wells. The motion passed by majority, with Odle not in attendance.

**JCEDO Report:** Kelly gave a report of JCEDO by saying they've had some quality prospect visits. On the Tourism side they've started a visitor's guide.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

Barton had nothing.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle was absent.

Watson said to be careful out there. It's awfully hot.

Wood had nothing.

**Claims Approval:** The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the claims. Barton questioned three people attending the same meeting and driving their own individual vehicles and getting paid mileage when we purchased city vehicles. Barton said he thought they were supposed to use city vehicles. It was to attend the IMEA meeting. Wood said he had to go to Indianapolis Speedway for a mayor's breakfast at the Indy 500. Barton asked why we even have ordinances and policies. Wood said he was done discussing it and there was a motion on the floor. The motion passed by majority but no nay vote was called for. Odle was not in attendance.

**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.:** Lockridge had nothing.

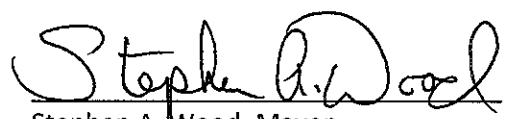
**Legal Dept.:** Riley had nothing.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger had nothing.

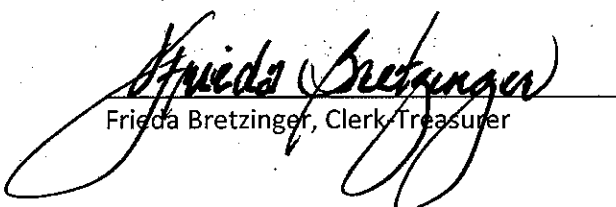
**Police Dept.:** Phillips had nothing.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Lockridge had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, 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