

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
February 12, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on February 12, 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 Mayor Stephen Wood and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Bill Hollerman, Rick Odle; George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Representative Jacob Ahler; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; 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; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Absent were: Council Member Scott Barton and Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I:

The minutes of the January 22, 2018 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority with Barton absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Ordinance 02-2018, Additional Appropriation: Bretzinger said this additional appropriation is requested by Police Chief Anderson to appropriate a reimbursement from CSX for the train derailment. Project Manager Lockridge requested an additional appropriation for the LOIT Special Distribution fund to pay for the 2018 street resurfacing project. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Resolution 02-2018, Gas Tracker: Lockridge said the tracker reflects a 5¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Ratify Council Poll: Bretzinger told council that a poll of council was taken on January 30th to allow payment of January's unemployment claim that was due January 31st. Poll showed Barton, Hollerman, Odle and Watson were in favor. Odle didn't feel we should be paying this invoice since he resigned. Ahler said this was appealed by the City but a determination has not been made. He added that if we are ruled against we could file it in circuit court. Bretzinger said we are a reimbursable employer; we do not pay the insurance. So when we have a claim, Workforce Development rules against us more times than private sector because we are not paying any of Workforce Development's administrative costs; we just pay what the individual is collecting. Wood asked Ahler if we received a determination and Ahler said we have not. Bretzinger said that was her other issue. She's never seen a determination take so long. Odle's suggestion is that next time we have an issue like this to just terminate them. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to ratify the poll. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Family Medical Leave Request: A family leave was requested by an employee. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Ordinance 03-2018, Penalty Ordinance: Smart explained that this ordinance would eliminate penalties on final bills so that utility deposits may be applied prior to letting said accounts fall into default. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 03-2018 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Ordinance 04-2018, Utility Deposits: Smart presented Ordinance 04-2018. This ordinance will use utility usage or meter size to determine the deposit required for each utility. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Purchase of a New Wood Chipper: Miller presented two quotes for a wood chipper for the electric utility. Atlas Bobcat quoted a 2017 Bandit 12XP wood chipper in the amount of \$27,761.20. Altec quoted \$40,379.00 for a DRM12 Drum Chipper. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to

approve the purchase of the Atlas Bobcat Bandit 12XP for \$27,761.20. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Dump Truck Replacement: Lockridge has a 1992 single axle dump truck and they would like to replace it. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to allow Lockridge obtaining bids. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Lift Station Pump Replacement: Lockridge said they have a couple of companies looking at the problems we're having with one of three pumps for the lift station. So far a company got back with him and said it needed to be replaced. He said these aren't cheap and if the lift station is going to be replaced in the next two to three years we don't want to put a lot of money in it. As soon as he gets a response from the other company he'll come back to see what council wants to do.

Permission to Advertise for a Part-Time Employee: Cochran asked to table this until the next meeting.

Public Relations Request for Project ID: Cochran is working on Project ID with the sheriff's department. He asked the city to donate money from the Public Relations Fund for a trailer that can be moved to different functions and fingerprint children. They will also take photos, height, weight and medical history. If a child comes up missing, info will go into a national database. The trailer costs \$15,000.00 and they have already raised \$3,000.00. The Jasper Foundation is administering it. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve \$250.00 from the Public Relations Fund. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

City Employee Picnic: Cochran said he and Smart would like to see a city picnic to get employees together. They are looking at August. He asked that the city pay for the food. Smart asked that a committee be appointed to plan this. She would like to see each department represented. Wood said each department head could appoint an employee for their department. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to appoint a committee with each department head picking one employee to serve on the committee. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Elected Officials Nepotism Forms: Wood said he had to ratify nepotism certifications from each elected official.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman said the city has done a great job with snow removal.

Odle said they are ordering trees to be planted this spring. Daniels asked that in the future if those trees could be set back farther.

Watson said from the state highway drive there is a pine tree blocking the view of the snowplow drivers so they have to pull out to see if they can enter Melville Street. Doing this causes the snowplow to be out in the street.

Wood said Larson has been named president of IMEA.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said he's been helping with the police station. Shane Excavating will be starting the demolition of Grandma's Kitchen.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing

Electric Dept.: Miller had nothing. Larson thanked council for the chipper.

Fire Dept.: Graves thanked all city officials able to attend the awards banquet.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Ahler had nothing.


Park Dept.: Effinger is taking applications for youth baseball. The deadline is March 9th.

Police Dept.: Anderson reported the new building is coming along. They are starting to rough-in the electric. Friday is the deadline for police officer applications.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said LGS Plumbing have been here off and on for the last couple of weeks locating lines. Lockridge had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer