

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
February 26, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on February 26, 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 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, Rick Odle; George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Mike Riley; 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 Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson was absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Jack Alvey with IMPA; Rob Peters with Colonial Life; Jim Miller; Tom Kennedy.

The minutes of the February 12, 2018 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:**

**Colonial Life:** Rob Peters said he understands that we have several carriers. He said their products are very competitive. They've been in business for seventy-five years and concentrate on public sector clients. They can offer assistance to administer our plans. If they can talk to 75% of our employees we can participate in MDLive which is virtual care. Wood said we will take it under advisement.

**Flood Issues:** Miller said he knew there will be flooding. He asked how we keep river water out of sewers and from backing up into storm drains. Kennedy said the city's problem is as soon as the river gets above the overflow hole it completely fills the manholes. Kennedy said the manholes need to be raised. Wood said the problem down there is that it's still a combined sewer. Wood said we have a long term control plan that has to be completed by 2030 but he doesn't see anything planned in the short term. Cover asked Lockridge if there was any merit in raising the manholes and he said he would have to talk to the engineers. Wood said we'll take a look at it.

**Resolution 03-2018, Designating an Economic Revitalization Area:** Alvey with IMPA said Rensselaer was one of three demonstration solar parks put in by IMPA. This site is east of N. McKinley and north of Merritt and it is 26 acres with the park being a \$6,000,000.00 investment. There will be 14,100 plus solar modules. He is requesting the area be declared an economic development area. This will be single access tracking site. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Deed Request:** Bretzinger presented a deed request for Ethel Morrow. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Parcel #018-00896-00 - Lots 3, 6 and 7 in Block 20, RCCP and Parcel #018-00896-01 – Lot 9 in Block 20, RCCP:** Riley was approached by Greg Whaley and his clients want to donate parcels but don't want to pay any closing costs or tax liability. He figures the tax liability will be around \$800.00 and closing between \$250.00 and \$300.00. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to accept the donated lots. The motion passed unanimously.

**Permission to Advertise for a Part-Time Employee:** Cochran asked for a part-time employee this spring and Lockridge asked for up to five part-time employees for summer. There was a motion by Watson, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Unemployment Claim:** There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve a claim to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The motion passed unanimously.

**Credit Card Activity Log:** Bretzinger presented the credit card activity log for January. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the mayor signing the logs. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Appointment to Mainstreet Committee:** Wood said Watson volunteered to serve on the committee so Wood said he was appointing him.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Barton** thanked everyone for flood work and the card and flowers from the fire department and card from council and city hall during his illness.

**Bretzinger** sent out the annual report to council last Friday.

**Cover** said thanks to Jerry and Andy concerning handling the flood water.

**Hollerman** thanked employees for the work during the flood.

**Odle** thanked the employees for the work during the flood.

**Watson** had nothing.

**Wood** had nothing.

**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 Grandma's Kitchen is gone.

**Cemetery Dept.:** Cochran had nothing

**Electric Dept.:** Miller had nothing. Grow had nothing but added there was no water at the plant.

**Fire Dept.:** Graves reported they were called out for two water rescues.

**Gas Dept.:** Lockridge had nothing.

**Legal Dept.:** Riley had nothings.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger next Monday there will be a park board and corporation meeting in the conference room. They had some flooding so they are cleaning the building.

**Police Dept.:** Anderson said they are inviting 15 applicants for police officer to a physical test on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the high school.

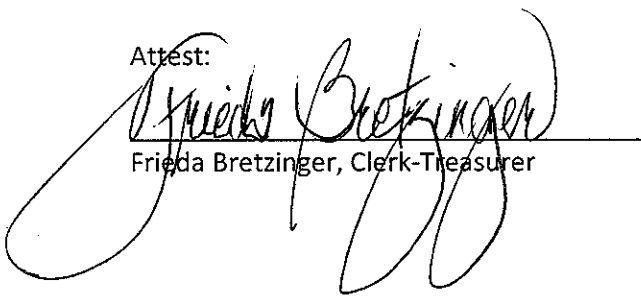
**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels said H RTP has been running since last Monday. Lockridge said they've pushed 49,000,000 gallons of water through the H RTP since last Monday. They will be picking up flood damaged items at no charge. If citizens will call, the city will pick up the items.

**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, 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