

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
September 26, 2011**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on September 26, 2011 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Herbert Arihood called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. followed by invocation offered by Councilman Comingore and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Herbert Arihood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Carole Beaver, Bill Hollerman, Rick Williams, George Cover, Rick Comingore; City Attorney Todd Sammons; Park Supt Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt Ron DeMoss; Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Fire Chief and Gas Supt L E Koehler; Utility Office Manager Tammy Wisley; Electric Line Supt Tom Phegley; Electric Plant Supt Claude Grow; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge. Street Supt Mike Murphy arrived after roll call. Electric Utility Coordinator Donna Cochran was absent.

Also in attendance were: Rick Odle with the Urban Forestry Council; Jeff Wood; Ed Korniak; Joe Chapman; Council Candidate Russ Overton; Linda Comingore; Jack Eldridge; Carol Lockridge; Kerry Vincent with ISC; Pam Saylor.

The minutes of the September 12, 2011 council meeting were presented and approved upon a motion by Hollerman and second by Cover.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: Rick Odle said the Urban Forestry Council will be doing a planting in late October. They are currently out of money and need not to exceed \$1,400 to pay for the planting of trees until the state pays them back. He said the state has to come out and physically inspect where the trees are planted and if they are planted correctly. He's hoping to get that money by Christmas and can pay back before the end of the year. Hollerman asked if we can loan money like that. Bretzinger said we don't loan money but they have a fund that we could use to pay for the trees and they would reimburse us. Cover asked if there is a fund we could use and Bretzinger said we have an Urban Forestry Council Fund. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Williams, to honor his request.

Jeff Wood said three or four months ago he was here and it was indicated that the city was working on an amount that the seven businesses at the interstate would have to pay for the sewer system. He wanted to know if they ever came up with amounts. Arihood and Sammons both believe it is in the new rate ordinance. Arihood believed it was figured on their monthly usage but Sammons said it's figured on their EDU's which is based on residential usage and then convert that to commercial usage based on occupancy. They came up with an EDU amount and then come up with the number of EDU's per business. Wood asked if there is an approximate percentage of what they are paying on the sewer line cost. Arihood said they would be paying a monthly assessment for a number of years depending on how much people will move in that will reduce the fund and it will go down progressively with the influx of new people. Arihood said this is businesses alone and it will not affect any resident out there.

Mayoral Proclamation for the Daughters of the American Revolution: Arihood declared September 17 to September 23, 2011 as Constitution Week.

Ord 11-2011, 2012 Budget: Bretzinger said the budget is \$4,171,051. Beaver asked if they have an ordinance in front of them. Bretzinger said she gave it to council before the last council meeting for the public hearing. Beaver claimed she never received one and Bretzinger said she put one in her box as she did the other council members. All of the other council members said they received a copy. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to adopt the budget as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Beaver opposing the motion.

Resolution 22-2011, TIF Area of Fairgrounds: Haun said this TIF expansion starts at the fairgrounds and goes to the east side of I-65. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Resolution 22-2011 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Res 28-2011, TIF Bond Issue: Arihood said the Redevelopment Commission authorized the issuance of bonds. This will combine three different bond issues in to one issue. Julien is anticipating a lower interest rate on two of the bond issues which would save the city some money. The third bond issue is to finance the Melville Street Tributary Project. There was a motion by Williams, second by Comingore, to approve Resolution 28-2011 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Res 27-2011, Transfer of Funds: There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Williams, to approve Resolution 27-2011 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Street Resurfacing Bid Opening: Sammons opened and read the bids. All bids were found to be in order. Town and Country Paving's bid was for \$280,942.00. E & B Paving's bid was for \$244,580.00. A committee of Lockridge, Murphy and Phegley will review the bids and make a recommendation to council at the next meeting.

Building Dept Secretary: Haun said with the annexation and ordinance violations he's wanting his secretary as a full-time position. He said he wants to give her more responsibility such as taking care of the Laserfiche system but right now everybody is taking care of their own work. They take care of utility applications and deposits and a lot of business and contractor registrations. He would like this to go in to effective January 2. He budgeted half of the salary from his budget and would like the other half of the salary split between the four utilities. Cover would like to know how much the state is going to cut our budget. There was a motion by Williams, second by Hollerman, to table this until later. The motion passed unanimously.

Halloween Trick or Treat Hours: Williams clipped trick-or treat hours out from last year's newspaper. The majority of communities had hours from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There was a motion by Comingore, second by Williams, to set trick-or-treat hours on October 31st from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Reschedule October 10th Council Meeting: Arihood said October 10th is the Mayor's Holiday This was approved at the August 22nd council meeting along with the rescheduling of the October 10th meeting to October 11th. He said with the addition of a public hearing it needs to be "resignified". There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Williams, to hold the first council meeting in October on October 11, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed Requests: Bretzinger had cemetery deed requests for Dorothy DeWees, Jerry and Shelley DeWees, and Denise Trammell. There was a motion by Williams, second by Comingore, to approve the cemetery deed requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: Vincent gave results to the bid opening on September 12th for the labor and the poles for the 69 kV line for the electric utility. He said the committee has reviewed the bids and recommends that the labor bid goes to NG Gilbert in the amount of \$463,334.00. It recommends that the poles to go to Laminated Wood Systems in the amount of \$14,490.00. There was a motion by Comingore, second by Cover, to accept the recommendation of the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Comments:

Bretzinger had no comment.

Cover had nothing.

Comingore had nothing.

Beaver said the Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 1. She will be contacting department heads for assistance.

Hollerman had nothing.

Williams had nothing.

Arihood said the Redevelopment Authority consisting of Richard Comingore, Carole Beaver and Russ Martin will be meeting Friday, September 30th at 2:00 p.m. This is to approve the proposed bond issue. The Redevelopment Commission will meet October 14th for a public hearing regarding the TIF areas.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented to council. There was a motion by Cover, second by Williams, to approve payment. The motion passed unanimously. Bretzinger said there was an additional claim to IDEM for permitting for the West Side Sanitary Sewer for \$100.00. There was a motion by Williams, second by Hollerman, to approve the IDEM claim. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept: Haun said he has a meeting with the Jasper County Plan Comm. tonight for the two mile buffer zone. Panda Apartments was bought out. The Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance for them so there will be some expansion.

Electric Utility: Grow said they are staying busy winterizing the plant and knocking down the houses they purchased. Phegley said they've busy on the SR 114 switchover.

Fire Dept: Koehler said the memorial is still in discussion phase. They want to put in two flag poles. They want to do memorial in granite from Pennsylvania where Flight 93 went down.

Gas Utility: Koehler said working on a couple of main projects; one being the Arbi's and the other is the line for the new school. They are also working on the regulator stations.

Legal Dept: Sammons has been working on the west side sewer project easements. There are two left to be returned. He's drafting a contract for a backflow preventer agreement.

Parks Dept: Effinger said Wednesday, October 5 to run the fog machine to Kankakee, IL for annual testing. They are winding things down and trying to start winterizing parks

Police Dept: Phillips had a citizen ask for a stop sign at Kannal and Sparling for the north and south lane. Phillips said he's going to go back to that citizen and ask if he'd carry a petition. There was a motion by Williams, second by Cover, to allow Phillips to pursue.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater: Murphy said all departments are running normal. Lockridge said the I-65 Sewer bids will be opened Thursday, September 29 at 3:30 p.m. There were eight to nine contractors at the pre-bid meeting. The water plant bid opening is October 6 at 2:00 p.m. There were twenty people at that pre-bid meeting with nine being general contractors. He is waiting on a cost estimate from BF & S for the

Streetscape Project to make some design changes. We are still waiting on approval from OCRA on the Melville Street Tributary Project.

Utility Office: Wisley said she submitted her report to council and will answer any questions.

Weston Cemetery: DeMoss said they are trying to get lights around the veteran's monument and the entryway.

Carol Lockridge said there's a Safety meeting on Wednesday, September 28th at 8:00 a.m.

Overton asked if the shelter house will be available to reserve. (Bicentennial Park) He asked if the recycling program is making money. Arihood said the landfill charges last year were \$72,000.00 or \$73,000.00 and the recycling income was \$50,000.00.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Williams, second by Hollerman, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Herbert H. Arihood, Mayor

ATTEST:

Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer