MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
May 26, 2015

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on May 26, 2015 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 Councilman Overton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Genny Daniels; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, Russ Overton, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr.; City Attorney Mike Riley; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt. Ron DeMoss; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Sergeant Matt McAleer;; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Street Supt. Mike Murphy; Javonte Anderson with the Rensselaer Republican. Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow and Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge were absent.

Also in attendance were; Mayor's Secretary Monica Maienbrook; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Bill Wornhoff; Todd Ludington; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO.

The May 11, 2015 council minutes were presented and approved unanimously with a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Ordinance 04-2015, Additional Appropriation Ordinance: Daniels explained this is an ordinance to reappropriate insurance proceeds for a damaged squad car. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve Ordinance 04-2015. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed Request: Daniels read a cemetery deed request for Stephen B. Lilly. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

FMLA Extension Request: Daniels read an FMLA extension request. There was a motion by Overton, second by Hollerman, to approve the extension. The motion passed unanimously.

IMPA CF-1 Tax Abatement Form: Wood told council that we did not receive this filing in time and IMPA sent it to the County Assessor's Office but it was sent on time. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve all CF-1 form. The motion passed unanimously.

Use of Contractor Registration Funds: Haun said he would like to use money in the Contractor Registration Fund to clean up some properties that are in constant bad condition and put a lien on those properties to recoup those funds. Barton asked if there is a list because he has a problem with a "blank check". He wants to know how much we're spending. There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to approve the expenditure. The motion passed unanimously.

Waiver of Building Permit Fee for High Rate Treatment Plant: Haun said Lockridge wasn't here but was requesting that the building permit fee be waived for the high rate treatment plant. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to waive the building permit fee. The motion passed unanimously.

Jasper County Economic Development Organization: Kelly thanked the city for the long-term relationship with JCEDO. This request is for $$3,750.00. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to approve the donation. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiber Optic: Eric Allison presented the proposal to provide fiber optic for the city. The benefits are great. TV Cable wanted to remove the pole rental but that is not going to be removed. The fiber cost will be $28,500. The utilities have the money to do this. The concern is the park and cemetery but the cost is lower than the current monthly cost so it will be a savings in the long run. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Overton, to approve the fiber optic change. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments: **Wood** said we are nearing completion of the engineering on the I-65 Water Main Project. We will probably be going out for bonds as soon as we get the rest of the easements. **Cover** had nothing. **Watson** is happy to see the roads damaged from winter are being repaired. **Bretzinger** said she sent out budget estimate forms to department heads with return date of June 12th. She has a budget meeting with DLGF on July 9th. **Barton** verified school board applicant interviews were tomorrow and the cemetery parking lot looked nice. **Hollerman** also said the Memorial Day service was very nice. **Overton** also commented on the Memorial Day service.

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

Supt Reports:
Building Dept: Haun has been busy working on budgets. He will be on vacation for about four days.
Electric Utility: Larson said hopefully this will be the last week of trimming trees. They have been replacing broken poles at the fairgrounds. The contractor will be working on the control house.
Fire Department: Haun said they have had a lot of fire calls.
Gas Department: Lockridge has submitted required paperwork to the county and state for their extensions so they are waiting to hear back from those.
Legal Dept.: Riley said he is working on the paperwork for the sewage plant financing.
Park Dept: Effinger said they ran into a snag with the main drain on the swimming pool but are working through that.
Police Dept.: McAleer said they are testing body cameras. They are in the background process of the hiring process of a police officer..
Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater: Murphy said the lawn mower at the wastewater treatment plant has broken. He received quotes from all four dealers here in town and would like to purchase a Toro from Superior Sales and Service for $4,319.20. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.
Weston Cemetery: DeMoss said he is having trouble with a mower and would like permission to get quotes for a new mower. There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to get quotes. The motion passed unanimously.

Wood announced that Rensselaer has been chosen as the 2014 Municipality Recycling Leader of the Year. We will be honored on June 10th in Indianapolis.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:

Genny Daniels, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer