

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
July 10, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on July 10, 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 Rev. Lisa Ulrich from the Church of the Nazarene and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda DeMoss; 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; Fire Chief and Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Police Sergeant Matt McAleer; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge and Police Chief Jeff Phillips were absent.

Also in attendance were: Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Assistant Fire Chief Bob Graves; Attorney Ed Dumas; Attorney & Park Board President Mike Manis; Peter Woodburn and Wayne Kyle with Woodburn and Kyle and Lisa Ulrich with the Church of the Nazarene.

The minutes of the June 26, 2017 council meeting were presented and unanimously approved upon a motion by Hollerman and second by Odle.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Since there were no citizen comments, Mayor Wood took that time to recognize Fire Chief Kenny Haun. Haun who has been Fire Chief for the past 5 years is stepping down from Fire Chief. Haun is going into semi-retirement. Haun is a thirty two year veteran and has served as chief, master officer, instructor, training officer, captain, fire investigator, assistant chief, and deputy chief. Haun has been recognized four times as "Fire Fighter of the Year". Haun will retire August 1st and Assistant Fire Chief Bob Graves will become the new Fire Chief.

Resolution 17-2017-Gas Tracker: Heather Smart said the Gas Tracker for July reflects a change of .1087. This would be a slight increase. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton to approve Resolution 17-2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 18-2017-Electric Tracker: Miller said that the Electric Tracker for the next quarter shows an increase of .001505. This amounts to a \$1.51 increase for every 1,000 kilowatt hours consumed. For a typical bill of 700 kilowatt hours consumed, this would be an increase of around \$1.05 a month. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Resolution 18-2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Watt Sub Station Spill Containment Quotes: Miller stated that \$22,000.00 was budgeted for the Spill Containment System. The quote from C.I. Agent Solutions came in at \$19,671.86 with a freight charge of \$450.00 for a total of \$20,121.86. This type of containment system is less costly and extremely efficient. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to accept the quotes for the Watt Sub Station Spill Containment System. The motion passed unanimously.

Transfer of Funds: DeMoss said there was a transfer of funds for the Police Department in the amount of \$144,061.00. Barton asked if there was enough money to transfer and still cover the rest of the year. Wood said that it is to cover for the reimbursable grant for the console. They will get that money back, Wood stated. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the transfer of funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to Bond Ordinance 10-2017 Electric Refunding: John Julien said this ordinance is to amend the original bond ordinance adopted in 2016. It gives the authorization to give the refunding and to clean up some of the things that were put in the original ordinance. Now that there are bids in hand and dates set for selling the bonds they can adjust the dates to reflect the changes. Section three talks about the size of the bond issue, which is 7.3 million. That will be enough money to do the refunding and the new construction. Section ten talks about the types of steps and documents that are authorized to do the preparation of the official statements, and other holdovers from the last ordinance and a refunding escrow agreement. The end of the ordinance actually deals with the escrow, Julien stated. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 10-2017. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Odle, second by Cover, to accept the Amendment to Bond Ordinance 10-2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Woodburn and Kyle-Parks for People-Campaign discussion: Peter Woodburn and Wayne Kyle talked to the council about their past experience in fund raising. Woodburn and Kyle have been hired by Ed Dumas to raise money for the Parks for People Campaign. They have set up leadership roles. Dr. and Mrs. Jack Drone are the general co-chairs for the campaign. Attorney Mike Manis is the vice-chair for the campaign. Stace Pickering is going to take over the industrial part of the campaign. Ed Dumas will be involved in keeping everything running correctly and filling in where needed. Stace Pickering has already gotten a bid from Titan's. This is a Rensselaer and Jasper County Project, so they are trying to keep things local. Media has given great support. The goal is 1.5 million. Woodburn and Kyle have created an Oversight Committee. It consists of Mayor Wood, Ed Dumas, Jack and Janet Drone, Dave Schrum and Mike Manis. They are asking the city employees to start off the campaign. This would be a sign of support. Woodburn and Kyle said they are asking for the city employees to donate through payroll deduction. They will have meetings with each department. There will be no pressure what so ever. Whatever you would want to give and when, whether you want to give weekly or monthly; whatever you and your family want to give. No one would know who gave or how much; unless the donor gives permission to have their name given, but never the amount. If you do not want to be listed they will honor that decision. Also, this is not a binding agreement. Woodburn said you could stop it whenever you wanted to. After they are finished with the employees, they will meet with the city council. Woodburn said their next step after talking to the council would be to talk with some of the leadership in the community and getting the campaign divisions started. They will have a financial division and an industrial division. Cover asked if the Park Board has a plan on what will come first, second and third. Cover said people give when they know what they are giving to. Woodburn said they are in the final plans. Watson said he would like to see some plans also. Watson said there has been talk of ball fields and other fields but it has just been talk. Bretzinger asked what happens to the money if the 1.5 million is not raised. Woodburn said that it can't be given back but it would be up to the five person committee. Kyle said there are needs smaller than the goal. Whatever is raised will go for projects. There are so many small projects that make up the large project. The money has to go to the Jasper Foundation for the donators to be able to receive a 501C3. If it goes to the Jasper Foundation it is protected and gives the campaign credibility. Cover said that he wants to make sure the money is used for the park. Woodburn said yes, it would be. Barton asked if the Park Board will be dictating on what projects get done. Kyle said the Park Board has had significant input into the planning process. Blacker Trust started the concept of doing the additions and the Park Board was told what was happening. Woodburn said it is a partnership. If the 1.5 million dollars is not raised, projects will get done. Does the Park Board decide which projects get done, Barton asked. Woodburn said yes, but the five person committee is the ones that will release the money. Barton asked why there is not more of the Park Board on the committee. There is only one member on the committee, while three members live outside of town, Barton said. Kyle said the Park Board has significant input in the plans. Barton said he is on the Park Board and has not seen one plan yet. Kyle said Manis and Pickering has been involved and they could not involve everybody in the process, but they are coming to speak the Park Board next week. Hollerman said that if you're going to sell something, you need a product. Hollerman asked if 1.5 million is really needed for the parks. Woodburn said you need a major overhaul. Kyle said based on what they have seen in other communities, you need 5 million. Barton said it has been underfunded for years. Odle said that he hopes there will be basketball courts and tennis courts also. Wood would like to use some of the money from the sale of the administration building to go towards the campaign, but said it is a council decision. A motion was made by Barton, second by Odle, to allow Woodburn and Kyle to talk to employees about payroll deductions for the Parks for People Campaign. The motion passed unanimously.

Request to Purchase Fire Hydrants: Lockridge said the Water Utility has received three quotes to purchase eighteen fire hydrants for replacing older hydrants that are around town. The recommendation is to go with Ferguson for a total of \$26,718.00. Lockridge said the Water Utility would purchase them and SRF would reimburse the Water Utility. There was a motion made by Odle, second by Watson, to purchase fire hydrants from Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the Park: Rick Odle said that Tom Effinger started in 1967 for the park system under Hal Gray as running the summer baseball program. He took over the park system and ran it for 25 years. After he retired from the park system, he served on the park board and the auxiliary board for 25 years. Effinger was instrumental in getting the Park Corporation formed so that they would be able to get grants to do projects for the park. His passion was in the parks. Odle made the motion for the council to give the park board the authority to name a park after Tom Effinger or do something fitting in Tom's memory. The only stipulation was that three parks were off limits for changing the name, which are Brookside Park, Milroy Park and Potawatomi Park. Cover seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: there were none.

Administrative Comments: Odle had nothing. Hollerman had nothing. Barton said the Fire Department is a well-oiled machine. DeMoss had nothing. Watson had nothing. Cover thanked Kenny for his service and wished him well. Wood thanked Kenny Haun and wished Bob Graves good luck.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept.: McAleer stated Cruise Night went smooth Saturday night. St. Joe alumni have shown interest in having a gathering at Brookside Park in October.

Legal Dept.: Riley wanted to wish Kenny Haun well. He had nothing else.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Steve Miller had nothing. Larson had nothing. Grow had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger announced that the Park Board and Park Corporation will be meeting next Monday night at 6 p.m. Cruise night went well.

Weston Cemetery: Cochran had nothing.

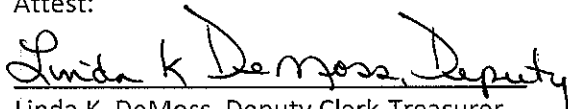
Fire Dept. / Building Dept.: Haun wanted to thank everyone for their support.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels stated that Bowen got the repair parts done for behind the library and in the next month they can get in and take care of the problem. Lockridge said he was sure the plant was operational with the rain from earlier in the day. There was a rain event the other day that caused a problem at the end of the main. The CSO overflowed for an hour and the High Rate Treatment Facility caught up and captured a majority of the water. After that it flowed really well. Lockridge said they are getting used to the system. Lockridge said they have a road closure request for the Methodist Church. It is for August 20th for Angelica. They want to close from Cullen Street to Weston Street. The motion was made by Watson, second by Cover to grant the road closure. The motion passed unanimously.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Linda K. DeMoss, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer