

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
August 14, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on August 14, 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. Debbie Voss with the Burr Oak Mennonite Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, 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 Jeff Phillips; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Rick Odle; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart and Street Supt. Andy Daniels were not in attendance.

Also in attendance were: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Marcia Mathew; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Michael and Evelia Kohlman; Angie Deming with Republic First National; Shawn Cain with KIRPC and Rev. Debbie Voss with the Burr Oak Mennonite Church.

The minutes of the July 24, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle not in attendance.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Resolution 20-2017, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger said this transfer of \$142,561.00 is for the police department as requested by Phillips. The original transfer was to pay for a radio console from the police budget and then do an additional appropriation when we received the grant money. However Bretzinger felt this should be handled differently and we want to reverse the original transfer. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Resolution 20-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Resolution 21-2017, Gas Tracker: Lockridge told council that the tracker reflected a 9¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to pass Resolution 21-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

KIRPC Grant Administration Agreement for the Water Well Project: Shawn Cain with KIRPC presented the agreement for grant administration of the project in the amount of \$28,000. This breaks down to \$20,000.00 for administration, \$3,000.00 for environmental review, and \$5,000.00 for labor standards. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the agreement. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Republic First National Purchase Program Presentation: Angie Deming with Republic First National said she is here to present lease purchase financing for municipalities. The difference between a loan and a lease purchase for municipalities is the lease purchase agreement has a non-appropriation clause. This says if the municipality should ever encounter a fiscal hardship it can decide not to appropriate the funding for that equipment. This is a good way to purchase equipment because equipment costs typically increase 4-5% each year. Currently rates are between 2-3% so this will save the city money in the long run by purchasing now. Last week she met with the police chief, mayor and Miller and was told the city wanted to purchase a couple of police cars, a chipper, a street sweeper and an aerial bucket truck. Bretzinger asked if they are a bank. She said they are a broker. Bretzinger asked if Indiana Bond Bank was a competitor and she said they are. Wood said we need to buy a bucket truck and would like to get the process started. Bretzinger asked if we were going to look at other companies and local banks. Wood said we would. Barton asked if the departments weren't budgeting money to purchase equipment instead of having to finance equipment and don't we have enough debt the way it is? She said as we are budgeting the price of equipment is going up annually. Barton said he doesn't agree with financing just to have instant gratification. Bretzinger asked if this bucket truck would be big enough to service the 69 kV line. He said it would but we don't have any linemen certified to work on it. Watson said it wouldn't hurt to look at the process. Cover thought a committee needs to be set up to look at the advantages of financing compared to paying as we go. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to look in to this as a purchase option. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent. Hollerman asked if they help with purchasing and Deming said that's up to the municipality. She

mentioned municipalities piggy-backing purchases. Lockridge said that would take a resolution by both municipalities.

First Group Construction Inspection 2017 Street Resurfacing: Lockridge said last year First Group did our bid packets and road assessment and applied for our grants. He is asking to hire them to do the construction inspection, Exhibit Preparation and Programmatic State CE with Section 106 Report for \$55,100.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the agreement. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Property and Casualty Insurance: Pickering said he quoted out the city's insurance. He requested quotes from four companies but two declined to quote. The committee met and recommended that we stay with our current carrier. Their quote is an 11% decrease from last year. He also looked in to cyber liability and data compromise coverage as requested by the committee. The policy he proposed had \$1,000,000.00 in cyber liability and \$100,000.00 in data compromise liability. This would cover someone hacking in to our system and we get a virus or more recently ransomware which shuts down a system and victims have to pay to get their systems back. It also covers data restoration and recreation, cost of defense, the cost of sending out notices, and credit monitoring for two years. The premium is \$1,967.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to accept the renewal and include the cyber insurance. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Cemetery Deed Requests: Bretzinger presented cemetery deed request for David Payton, and Roger and Carol Chapman. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the requests. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Tree City USA: Wood read a letter of recognition as a 2016 Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Public Relations Fund Request: Wood asked to pay for flowers for John Amsler, Marion Township Trustee, who died last week. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

St. Joseph's College Sale: Wood said St. Joseph's College is selling much of its equipment and products. He said Phillips may be interested in some exercise equipment. Phillips asked Bretzinger about payment. Council approval would be needed. Michael Kohlman has been the Chief Information Officer for SJC for the last year. Kohlman said anything purchased in the recreation center is cash or credit card. Any other purchases could possibly be done by purchase order or discuss terms. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to allow Phillips to purchase at SJC as long as he stays within his budget. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Committee Reports: There were none. Cover felt a committee needed to be established to research the lease purchase discussion held earlier. He felt Bretzinger needed to be on the committee. Cover and Watson were also appointed. There was no motion or second by Wood asked all in favor and all present were in favor.

Salary Discussion: Wood said there were a couple of salaries that were tabled and he wanted to know if council wanted to discuss it or table it. It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting.

Administrative Comments:

Barton had nothing.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle was absent.

Watson had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the claims. The motion passed by majority with Odle not in attendance.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Miller had nothing. Larson said they are doing work on 850 at the substation. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Graves said Mrs. Amsler asked permission to place a tree or bench in honor of John Amsler at the fire station. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to allow Mrs. Amsler's request. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

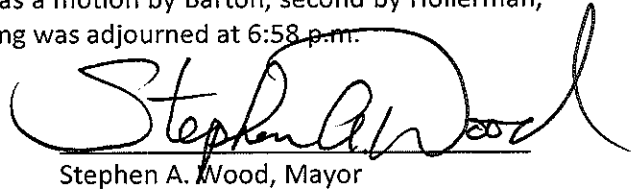
Legal Dept.: Ahler had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Phillips had nothing.

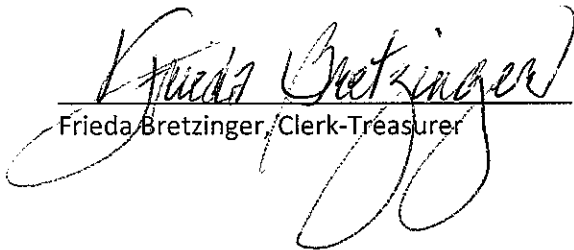
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Lockridge said they've started on the Elm Street drainage from Rachel to Scott. They've done the lining in the 24" tile from the H RTP south to a lift station.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:



Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer