

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
September 11, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on September 11, 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. Jeff Cover with the First Presbyterian 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 Sergeant Matt McAleer; 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; Caitlin Sievers 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; Chris Woodcock; Jeff Cover with the First Presbyterian Church.

The minutes of the August 28, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Chris Woodcock addressed council regarding the Viet Nam Traveling Memorial Wall. He thanked council for its donation. He asked for questions, concerns or ideas. The date is May 24th to May 28th. It's an 80% replica of the original wall. It will be escorted in to town on May 23rd by the Jasper County Sheriff and city police. The committee will decide what to do with excess funds. The end goal will be to donate toward veteran organizations. Donations are still needed.

Public Hearing for Ordinance 13-2017, the 2018 Budget: There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Bretzinger read the individual budgets which totals \$5,836,426.00. There being no comments there was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 15-2017, Credit Card Ordinance and Repeal Ordinance 05-2017. Riley said there were some things regarding sales tax being paid so that brought on the presentation of Ordinance 15-2017. He suggested repealing Ordinance 05-2017. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to repeal Ordinance 05-2017. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 15-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 23-2017, Gas Tracker: Lockridge said this resolution reflects an increase of \$.004 of a cent per 100 cubic feet of natural gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve Resolution 23-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Salary Increase for Part-time and Seasonal Employees: Bretzinger said council approved a 3% increase for city employees and she asked for clarification of part-time and seasonal employees as to whether or not the 3% increase was pertaining to those positions as well. Joe said he and the mayor talked about freezing the wage and he talked to Bretzinger and she suggested an hourly rate. Wood asked Effinger if he was having trouble getting people to apply for these director positions and Effinger said he was. Watson asked what they do. Effinger said they are in charge of the fields. Watson suggested freezing these wages for one year and for them to look at this next year. Watson said there aren't that many programs for the kids and said the programs haven't been all that good. Barton said they have an activities director to try to bring new programs in to the park. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to freeze these wages for 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed Request: Bretzinger read a cemetery deed request for Stephen A. and Connie P. Kingman. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the deed request. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Barton asked to give a heartfelt thank you to first responders on this anniversary of 9/11.

Bretzinger had nothing.
Cover had nothing.
Hollerman had nothing.
Odle had nothing.
Watson had nothing.
Wood said Little Cousin Jasper was a tribute to first responders.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. for IMPA solar farm.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Miller said IMEA requested mutual aid request for Florida and four linemen are on their way down. Larson was absent. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Graves had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: McAleer had nothing.

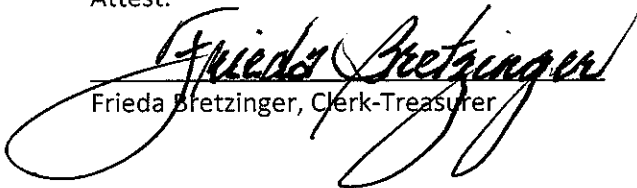
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels had nothing. Lockridge said the Washington Street bridge is closing tomorrow and will be closed for two months. September 19th will be inspection of the Rachel Street water tower.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer