

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
October 9, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on October 9, 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 with the Nazarene Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Marcia Mathew; 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 Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Mike Kohlman; Rev. Lisa Ulrich with the Nazarene Church.

The minutes of the September 25, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Ordinance 17-2017, 2018 Salary Ordinance: There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve Ordinance 17-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 25-2017, 4th Quarter Electric Tracker: Miller said this was an increase of .001358 and for a typical 700 kWh user it represents about a 95¢ per month increase. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 26-2017, Transfer of Funds: Mathew said the park department is requesting a transfer of \$5,000.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 27-2017, Gas Tracker: Lockridge said this resolution reflects a decrease of almost 2¢ per 100 cubic feet of natural gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve Resolution 27-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Approval of Gas Claim: Riley said we had to buy a gas easement from Phyllis Hale and would like to pay her. Wood said the state is shifting Mt. Calvary Road fifteen feet and we had a gas easement there. He said he just signed a contract with INDOT and they are going to pay the company to move the easement. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve the payment. The motion passed unanimously.

OPIOID Litigation: Riley was contacted by the firm that does our bonding for us and asked if we would like engaging with twenty other cities and counties on opiate litigation. They are going after five pharmaceutical companies. There would be a contingency fee. If there are recovered damages the city gets 60% and the attorney gets 40%. We would pay no costs. All costs would be advanced and paid by the law firm. Wood suggested Riley talk to Phillips before this presentation which he did. Riley said we would have to sign a fee agreement. Barton asked that we won't owe anything, win or lose. Riley said it would cost nothing. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to join the litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

Quotes for Squad Car: Phillips requested quotes from the State's QPA through Fletcher Chrysler and Thomas Dodge. Fletcher Chrysler quote was \$23,828.00 and Thomas Dodge quoted \$24,297.00. He said Fletcher Chrysler could not guarantee delivery before the end of the year so he would like to go with the higher quote from Thomas Dodge. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to purchase the squad car from Thomas Dodge. The motion passed unanimously.

Request to Purchase Shut-Off Valves: Lockridge said council approved the purchase of eighteen fire hydrants and now eighteen shut-off valves are needed to go along with the hydrants. SRF is on board with the purchase of \$9,846.00 and all but \$196.00 may be paid through the loan. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to purchase the valves and pay for them through the SRF loan. The motion passed unanimously.

Quotes for Sewer Camera: Lockridge received three quotes to purchase a sewer camera. Eco Infrastructure Solutions quoted \$60,340.10, RS Technical Services quoted \$64,054.00, and Fredrickson Supply quoted \$66,655.00. Lockridge recommended purchasing the sewer camera from Eco Infrastructure Solutions for \$60,340.10. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to purchase the camera from Eco Infrastructure Solutions. The motion passed unanimously.

Grimmer Proposal for Additional Water Main Work: Lockridge explained that some additional water main work needs to be done regarding the Washington Street Bridge and Mt. Calvary Road east 200'. A quote from Grimmer was received and for the bridge project the cost will be an additional \$14,000.00. To do the Mt. Calvary project the cost will be \$23,000.00. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve the additional work. The motion passed unanimously.

Trunk-or-Treat: Haun said Trunk-or-Treat will be held October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Jasper County Fairgrounds. This was started several years ago to give the trick-or-treaters a safe environment. He asked for \$250.00 from the Public Relations Fund to help with treats. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously. He also asked council to consider moving Trick-or-Treating on Saturdays in the future. That way they aren't competing with school and church functions.

Trick-or-Treat Hours: In the past Trick-or-Treat hours have been on October 31st from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to keep the date and hours the same as in the past. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Comments:

Barton had nothing.

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman had nothing.

Mathew had nothing.

Odle said they finished planting trees on Washington and Harrison Streets. They have maybe half to a dozen left to plant.

Watson asked about the four programs at the park. Effinger said the fourth program will be the Riley Read on October 19th. Watson didn't remember the other three. Effinger said they are working on the Pickle Ball program and National Trails Day was in June.

Wood had nothing.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said he's been busy with unsafe buildings.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran said they received the excavator.

Electric Dept.: Miller said the outage was from equipment failure and Eger Sub. Someone from ISC came up to look at it. Larson said daughter got married in Potawatomi Park; nice park. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Graves said this week is National Fire Prevention Week. They will be going around to the schools presenting their program. Saturday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. there will be an Open House at the fire station.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

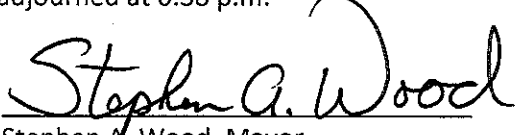
Police Dept.: Phillips thanked council for the car. The Board of Works approved Phase 2 of the police station.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said they finished the Elm Street storm sewer last week. Lockridge said the Board of Works approved advertising for Well #8.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Pickering said on behalf of Main Street he thanked the city for its help with Oktober Fest.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest: 
Marcia Mathew, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer