

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
July 24, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on July 24, 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 Council Member Scott Barton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda DeMoss; Council Members Scott Barton, 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 Chief Jeff Phillips; 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. Council Member Bill Hollerman was absent.

Also in attendance were: Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Attorney & Park Board President Mike Manis; Stace Pickering with C/I; Linda Comingore with Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce; Julie Suhr; Gene Suhr; Ed Feicht; Doug Standish.

The July 10, 2017 council meeting minutes were presented and approved by majority, with a motion by Barton and second by Watson. Hollerman was absent.

**Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:** Julie Suhr said that the Saint Joseph College alumni board is now incorporated and a new entity, independent from the college. The alumni board would like to have their homecoming and would like to continue hosting their "Homecoming" tradition in Rensselaer to also help support the community. Suhr said they are having it on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and would like to hold it at Brookside Park and requesting to be able to have alcohol in the park. Suhr said they have the application, insurance quotes and a map to show the area they want to use. Odle asked which insurance coverage they planned on going with. Suhr said the whole board would be meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>, but she was pretty sure it would be the largest one. Cover asked Chief Phillips if he saw any problem with this. Phillips said no, that they have been security for Saint Joseph's homecoming for years. Their event usually starts earlier in the day, so maybe it will carry over into Octoberfest since it is also that day. Suhr said that was one reason they chose that day also, to help tie it into Octoberfest. Cover made a motion to approve Saint Joseph College Alumni to use Brookside Park, second by Odle. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Linda Comingore with the Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce wanted to invite everyone to a ribbon cutting at Shorty's Marathon Gas Station on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday night is Kids Night at the Farmer's Market. Everything on the Court House Square will be free for the kids. Franciscan Health will be giving bike helmets to the youth.

Mike Manis, with the Park Board asked for permission to speak with Jerry Lockridge about obtaining some of the well land for a dog park. People use the parks as a litter box. The Park Board is not asking for money, just to set up a dog park. Lockridge said they have abandoned the well houses on that area of land. They have demolished the building, capping the three wells, remove the concrete floors, fill in and they will be done with it. Cover made the motion to go ahead and allow the Park Board to set up a Dog Park, second by Barton. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Ordinance 11-2017-Additional Appropriation for Insurance Proceeds:** DeMoss stated that the ordinance was for an Additional Appropriation for Proceeds for the Park Department in the amount of \$3,008.15. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle to approve Ordinance 11- 2017. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Ordinance 12-2017-Creation of Police Dept Equipment Grant Fund:** Phillips said he has been working with the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. The Police have a grant for \$142,561.00 for a new radio console and a grant for \$2,100.00 for bullet proof vests. Phillips and Bretzinger want to set up a fund to put the grant money into, instead of using funds out of the budget and then replacing it with additional appropriations when the grant money comes in. Bretzinger said there is a risk of the additional appropriation being denied due to not enough funds in the general fund to support every budget in general fund. Then there wouldn't be enough money to cover the deputies salaries. Bretzinger said she felt this was a better way to handle it and a better way to track for audits. It would stay open for when Phillips goes for other grants for equipment. Bretzinger said that the money that was transferred at last

meeting will be put back into the deputy salaries. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 12-2017. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Proposed Purchase of "Standby Generator & DC Storage Battery System" for Watt Substation-IMEA Rodeo Attendance-Steve Miller:** Miller stated he had two quotes for the Standby Generator. One was from Evapar Inc, \$13,550.00 and the other was Kevin Moore Electric for \$13,555.00. Miller recommended Kevin Moore Electric because Moore's quote includes delivery, installation, plus we will get it in five to ten days where Evapar was approximately six to eight weeks. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle to award the bid to Kevin Moore Electric. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent. Miller said we received two quotes for the DC Storage Battery System. The first one was from Hubill Power Systems for \$16,795.00 and the second was U & I Products for \$12,575.45. The batteries from U & I did not meet requirements and they did not supply a flame retardant case. The warranty was only for one year and 19 prorated, where Hubill's was three years and 17 prorated. Miller said he is recommending Hubill Power System for 16,795.00 plus they will send someone onsite to verify their warranty for \$2,500 for a total of \$19,295.00. Miller said these are the last two things to be purchased for the substation. There was a motion made by Cover, second by Barton to award the bid to Hubill Power System for \$19,295.00. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent. Miller asked for permission to send one lineman and two apprentice linemen to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual IMEA Line workers Rodeo on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Miller said there will be individual events and a team event. Barton asked what the cost was to attend. Miller said there is an entry fee of \$400.00 for the team event and \$150.00 for individuals. There would also be a Friday and Saturday night stay. Barton asked if the spouses would be going. Miller said they are invited. There was a motion made by Watson, second by Odle to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Quote for Parking Lot at Weston Cemetery:** Cochran said he received a quote from Town and Country for the parking lot in the amount of \$6,975.00. Cochran had checked on a pervious parking lot, but it did not work with the water table out at the cemetery. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the parking lot for Weston Cemetery. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Awards: K. Haun, D. Standish, D. DeVault:** Haun has been with the Fire Department for 32 years. Doug Standish has been with the Electric Department for 20 years. Danny DeVault has been with the city for 10 years.

**Cemetery Deed Requests:** DeMoss had two cemetery deed requests. One was for Lora Powell and the other was for Richard Mann. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson to approve the deed requests. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Police Dept.:** Phillips had a couple of interviews with construction companies for the police station. August 9<sup>th</sup> the technical review committee will meet again. They should have something for the Board of Works on August 14. After the Board of Works chooses which company they want, they will start negotiations on the price.

**Legal Dept.:** Riley has been trying to get a gas easement from Saint Joseph's College for the highway construction. They have turned it over to their lawyer. It is still in the process. Riley said they have the one from Miss Hale. Wood said INDOT is going to redo the intersection of Mount Calvary Road and US 231 in 2018. They are shifting it over fifteen feet. The city has a gas line there. They infringed on our easement so when they bought their easement, they should have gotten the city's easement too, but for some reason didn't and now the city needs to get an easement for the gas line. The gas line needs to be moved. They are going to award the bid in November. Riley said the cell tower has not been resolved yet.

**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

**Electric Dept.:** Miller had nothing. Larson thanked council for letting the Electric guys attend the rodeo. Grow had nothing.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger had nothing.

**Weston Cemetery:** Cochran had nothing.

**Gas Dept.:** Lockridge said she has scheduled a city wide safety meeting for Tuesday, July 25 and it is on blood-borne pathogens and distractive driving.

**Fire Dept., Building Dept.:** Haun thanked God that the fair was over. He had nothing else.

**Street, Sanitation, Water, Wastewater Dept.:** Daniels said the High Rate Treatment Plant did a good job with a couple of minor glitches. There was over 3 ½" in a twenty four hour period. Lockridge said they have been working on the Miller property trying to relocate a tile. Also, they are scheduled to do some lining on the twenty four inch pipe from the high rate treatment south to the structure in the field. It will depend on how wet the field is. It is scheduled for Tuesday but has been moved back to Friday.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:** Cover had nothing. Watson had nothing. DeMoss had nothing. Barton had nothing. Odle had nothing. Wood said they had an incident on Sparling Avenue.

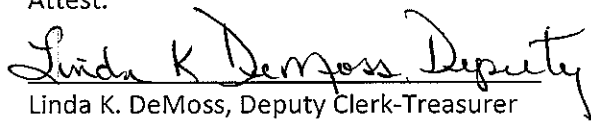
**Claims Approval:** The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the claims. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

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



Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:



Linda K. DeMoss, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer