

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
March 11, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on March 11, 2019 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Bill Hollerman, Rick Odle; George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; 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, Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Scott Barton was absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures. Stace Pickering with C/I; Barb Lucas with Rock the Arts and Breanne Hooker with the Jasper Foundation: Brook Boy Scout Troop 149 with Johnathan Simpson, Patrick Cobb, Ian Skrabel, Collin Grott, Jaden Voiles and Leader Jeremy Crews and they were accompanied by Sarah Simpson, Laurie Simpson and Brian Skrabel; Randy Denton; Tori Hickman; D J Mohler; Rick Williams; Jeff Rayburn; Jim Miller; Executive Secretary to the Mayor Monica Trump; Noelle Weishaar.

The minutes of the February 25, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Odle, and second by Hollerman, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:

Barb Lucas with Rock the Arts: She asked permission to use Potawatomi Park on June 22, 2019 for the Rock the Arts Festival. It will be from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to approve use of the park. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Breanne Hooker with the Jasper Foundation: Team Mission Jasper County is a group of one hundred youths that gather together one week during the summer to help around 1,000 with constructing stairs and wheelchair ramps, doing landscaping, painting and cleaning. They do not get paid. They do it to help their community. Sharon Colee with the Community Services is partnered with a group called Phil's Friends. She was donated \$5,000.00 and this money will be used for blankets for cancer patients. She mentioned several other programs.

Kenny Haun for Safe Kids Event: Haun asked permission to close and use the parking lot at the corner of Front and Washington Streets on June 8, 2019. The event, Taste of Jasper County, is from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He also asked that Front Street be closed from Washington Street to the alley. There will be a fundraiser for the Safe Kids Halloween held at Fenwick's Farm Brewing Company. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the requests. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Resolution 05-2019, Gas Tracker: Lockridge told council this tracker reflected a 5¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

USDA Budget Approval: Smart said this is a mandatory report. Lockridge said every year a budget has to be submitted to the USDA regarding the loan we received from them for the Wet Weather Treatment Plant. Each budget must be approved by the governing body. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve the budget. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

City Hall Recording System: Cover said since Eric Allison with CompTech 21 is sick he requested that this be tabled. He was doing the presentation and answer questions. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to table this item. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Quotes for Gas Truck: Carol Lockridge received quotes for a truck for the gas utility. A Ford F450 XL Supercab 4 X 4 was quoted. Gutwein Motors quoted \$38,740.50 and Fieldhouse Ford quoted \$40,478.99 and Monroe Truck quoted \$36,518.00 for a custom built aluminum service body. Pricing was not available from GM or Dodge. Odle asked if there was another bid on the body besides Monroe Truck. Jerry Lockridge said they've had the best luck with Monroe Truck. Cover said based on Jerry's comments he made a motion to approve the quote from Gutwein and Monroe Truck. Odle seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Tree Contract: Lockridge asked to go out for bids for the removal of 80 trees. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Weston Cemetery Deed Request: Bretzinger had a cemetery deed request for Deborah Powers. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Public Relations for Flags: Cochran asked for a \$1,000.00 donation from the city for flags. He asked that the donation come from the Public Relations Fund so that they may purchase 52 flags and hardware. Trump said they are trying to expand coverage out to WalMart. They have a \$250.00 donation from Legion Auxiliary. Bretzinger also mentioned that Main Street Rensselaer donated \$250.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to approve the donation. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Easements: Miller said back in 2014 the FCC adopted a ruling to accelerate broadband deployment in rural areas. In 2017, we passed a resolution that designated certain areas strictly for underground utilities it could be done. Other stipulations limit height of poles. Other than that we could have a permitting process. Right now the water and sewage have a permitting process. If the city has a private easement that we paid for we can keep them from using that. We can't prevent them from using public easements if they follow proper procedure.

Committee Reports:

Old Police Station Conversion: Cover said the committee met and felt that it might cost around \$8,000.00. We are looking at removing a wall and a countertop and painting the entire space. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to get quotes for the project. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Administrative Comments:

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said the assisted living facility is moving along quickly. They are dry-walling and should be done in the summer.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing

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

Fire Dept.: Haun thanked council for new truck.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.


Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Anderson said they finished the interview stage for dispatcher. They hope to make an offer tomorrow. He thinks they are losing a second officer and will be if hiring another if that happens. They are looking at new software for dispatch.

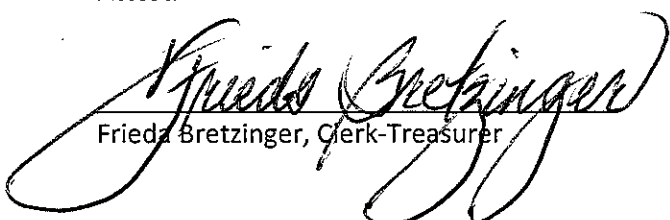
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels had nothing. Lockridge said they have substantial completion on the well and transmission line.

Utility Office: Smart said one of her window shades is broken. It will cost \$1,736.20 to replace all of the blinds in the utility office. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the purchase of new blinds. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer