

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
March 25, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on March 25, 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 invocation offered by Rev. Lisa Ulrich with the Church of the Nazarene 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; 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; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge, Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Absent were: Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran, Street Supt. Andy Daniels.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures. Stace Pickering with C/I; Rev. Lisa Ulrich with the Church of the Nazarene, Eric Allison with CompTech 21; Noelle Weishaar; Dean Garrett; Tori Hickman; D J Mohler; Russ Overton; Jeff Rayburn; Tim Misch.

The minutes of the March 11, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Cover, and second by Hollerman, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Dean Garrett was present to discuss the 25% surcharge on gas rates for gas service outside of the city limits and has been since 1993. He asked if the surcharge goes on or if it drops. He feels he's being penalized for living outside of the city. Lockridge said it was based on the increased service area and more man hours and more equipment. Wood said rates are very competitive. Miller said other municipalities charge a surcharge on water and sewage because there is not a city tax base that customers will pay in to. Garrett said he felt it was excessive and he was being penalized.

Resolution 06-2019: Bretzinger said this transfer is in the City Council and City Attorney budget in the amount of \$60.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve the transfer. The motion passed unanimously.

Internal Control Policy: Bretzinger said the policy is per the findings from last year's audit. She said Lockridge had concerns about the Procurement section. Her understanding from Lockridge is that the city does a Request for Qualifications and engineers are scored. Once an engineering firm is decided on, a price is negotiated. The auditors say we need three sealed bids for engineering if it's a federal project. Lockridge said he received an e-mail from Rural Development which verified what he said they do for qualifications. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 07-2019, 2nd Quarter Electric Tracker: Miller said the electric tracker reflects an increase of .002212, or an average of \$2.21 per 1,000 kWh. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

City Hall Recording System Quote: Eric Allison presented the SoniClear product and said he is looking at this being three projects. The first is the recording system and the second is two monitors for presentations and the third is adding two speakers in the back. SoniClear also has microphones for each seat that can be shut off. A PC will be needed that will be used in council chambers. Current mics will be left and seven more mics will be added. Watson asked what the lifespan is. Allison said the only thing would be it became outdated and if the hardware fails. The quotes are SoniClear at \$10,161.52 and BIS \$17,139.52. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to purchase the SoniClear system. The motion passed unanimously.

Statement of Qualifications for Wastewater Project: Lockridge asked permission to advertise for engineering for the Wastewater Upgrade Project. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to approve with the understanding that this could change. The motion passed unanimously.

Firefighter Cancer Policy: Haun said firefighters are more susceptible, with one in three developing cancer. He said they are keeping gear cleaner. He said the firefighters are asking that since they are volunteers, if the city would consider paying for a cancer policy. He is looking for guidance. Barton asked if they have to prove they got cancer through firefighting. Watson thought we should look into it. Haun would like to see a committee formed. Watson and Odle will serve on the committee. Tim Misch and Haun will also serve.

Cemetery Deed Request: Bretzinger presented cemetery deed requests for Sherri Geesa and William E. Roeschlein. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Credit Card Activity Log Approval: Bretzinger asked council to authorize the mayor to sign the credit card activity log. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to authorize the mayor to sign the credit card activity log. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Fund Request: Lockridge said Clean-Up Week is May 6th through May 10th. He asked for up to \$400.00 from Public Relations Fund for water, doughnuts and food on Friday for the week for workers. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Be The Best You Can Be: Wood said he received a bill for a school program. This is a school program to partner with the school to get pamphlets in the amount of \$585.00. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to allow the mayor to continue with the program. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Ordinance 02-2019, Utility Meter Deposits: Smart said the committee met. If a customer can provide a letter of credit from previous provider showing they were in good standing then a deposit amount would be based on history. The deposit will be applied to their utility bill on the thirteenth month if they pay their bill in a timely fashion. If a customer has the deposit refunded and they are delinquent then they will have to make a deposit. Wood said he will see that this in on the agenda for the next meeting.

City Hall Renovation: Barton said he's expecting two quotes from local contractors before the next meeting.

Administrative Comments:

Barton had nothing.

Bretzinger said the State Board of Accounts auditors arrived this morning to audit 2018.

Cover brought up the trash in peoples yards. Odle said he was hoping to have something for council to look at by the next meeting.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle said forestry council has been recognized for eleven years as a Tree City. Yesterday they signed a grant for about \$9,500.00.

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 had nothing.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing

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

Fire Dept.: Haun said the Spillman software would also help them.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge said they relocated the gas meter at the Middle School.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

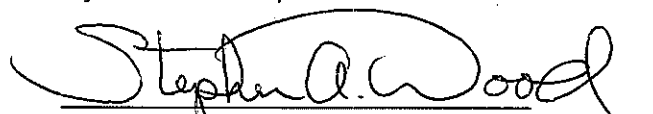
Park Dept.: Effinger said next Monday the Park Board and Corporation will meet at 6:00 p.m. He asked permission to attend a school for mosquito control on May 22nd. Barton, Odle to allow Effinger and Baltes to attend. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Dept.: Anderson said they offered the dispatch position to someone. They turned it down. He's looking at offering the position to one of the officer applicants. He discussed Spillman software that the county is looking at and would like for the police department to also use the same software.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Lockridge said their new truck has been delivered. He asked for four to five part-time or seasonal summer workers. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer