

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 8, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 8, 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. Debbie Voss of Burr Oak 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 Jacob Ahler; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran, 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. Absent were: Nick Fiala, with the Rensselaer Republican.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Jeff Rayburn, Russ Overton, Noelle Weishaar, Rev. Debbie Voss with Burr Oak Church, Thomas Messman, Sr., Jon Messman, and Ronald Kasparian.

The minutes of the March 25, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Ron Kasparian was present to approach council with a request to hold a Little 500 cart race on June 29 which would utilize the use of Drexel Parkway and St. Gaspar Drive. The route would require that Drexel Parkway be closed to normal traffic during race intervals. After a lengthy discuss Council tabled the discussion for the next meeting, requesting that the proposers get signed letters from all the businesses in the area that this could affect stating that they are okay with the road closure. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to table the discussion until next meeting and providing the signed letters are received from the area businesses. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 08-2019, Gas Tracker: Lockridge said the gas tracker covers the cycle for April 2019, it reflects a very small increase of 0.0004. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2-2019, Meter Deposits: The committee for the meter deposit ordinance recommended that the City go ahead with the ordinance as everything is covered and that it is fair to the City and definitely fair to the people who make deposits. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 2-2019 for utility deposits for electric, gas, water and sewage. The motion passed unanimously.

2019 Tree Removal: Lockridge stated that the City had received four quotes for removal of 84 trees. The quotes were as follows: Timber Tree Services-\$79,845.00; LaReau Tree Care-\$60,500.00; Russell's Tree Care-\$69,762.00 and Practical Tree Service-\$48,800.00. After reviewing the quotes he is recommending Practical Tree Service for \$48,800. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, that the recommendation be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Well #6 Cleaning Proposal: Lockridge reported that it has been found with annual testing that Well #6 has been losing gallons per minute, and now that Well #8 is on line and producing he would like to take Well #6 out of service and do a chemical cleaning and visually pull the pump and column piping to see if there are any issues with the pump. Peerless has always done the work and has quoted a price of \$23,265.00 and he would like to move forward with the inspection. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to go with Peerless to clean Well #6. The motion passed unanimously.

First Group Engineering Contract: Lockridge stated that First Group Engineering has been assisting with the Community Crossing Matching Grants, this year we were awarded \$933,677.96, contracts cover engineering fees, inspections, pulling bids together, bid packages and helping with advertising. They are quoting not to exceed \$93,600.00. The matching funds would be \$311,226.00, but the \$93,600.00 is not included. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to go with First Group for the total cost of the services not to exceed the \$93,600.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Request For Gas Department: Lockridge reported that the gas department had received a grant from the IURC to recover cost of the open house for this year, it is a reimbursable grant and is asking for funds of \$2,600.00 to cover the expenses associated with the open house. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman for the public relations request for the gas department open house. The motion passed unanimously.

City Hall Renovation: Barton stated that there were two contractor bids and one flooring bid for the old police station renovation, Contour Construction at \$3,124.01, D.E. Williams at \$6,275.00 and DeMotte

Carpet at \$374.00. The committee is recommending Contour Construction and DeMotte Carpet. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to award Contour Construction and DeMotte Carpet for the job. The motion passed, with Barton abstaining from the vote.

Cover stated that Bill Wornhoff has resigned from the Park Board. The board has come up with a replacement for that seat which is Sue Wing. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman for the appointment to the park board, along with the resignation letter and letter of application on file. The motion passed unanimously.

Cover also mentioned that no action was needed at this time, but there was a school board appointment that is coming up in April and was sure that we advertise, it is the one that was just appointed to fill the job, but legally have to advertise and reappoint for the position. May 1st is the deadline to submit letters, so there is time to do interviewing and get the appointment made before June.

Cover also mentioned he was contacted by a citizen about Weston Street behind the catholic school, she was concerned for the children that people were parking on both sides of the street by the playground and it becomes a one lane street. Anderson will be taking a look at it next week and will report on it.

Administrative Comments:

Barton had nothing.

Cover asked Lockridge when doing the tree bid was the Middleton house included. Lockridge responded that they were added to the list.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Wood said that the Hoosier State trains will be suspended as of July 1. Cardinal will still stop three days a week.

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 said that flag donation had reached and exceeded the goal.

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

Fire Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Ahler had nothing.

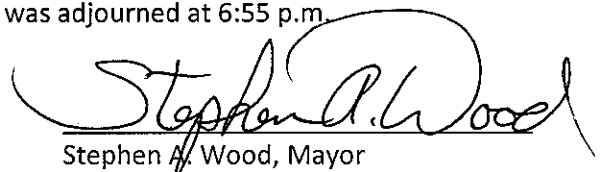
Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Anderson said that he is looking for council approval for Jeff Rayburn for the Chloe 5K Run to be held May 18th, with a route starting at the fairgrounds down Bunkum Road around Brookside and back to the fairgrounds. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to allow the Chloe 5K Run. The motion passed unanimously. There will also be testing for the hiring process for officers this Saturday and the following Saturday. He will also be meeting with Spillman for the software. Cover was approached by a spouse of an employee about the shooting range by the wastewater plant, she was not objecting to the city, but was objecting about the county and state police utilizing the range because it was constant shooting. She thought it was dangerous to the sewage employees. Anderson will check on it, but did not see an issue.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels had nothing. Lockridge asked if the council would be interested in sponsoring a team for the Chamber golf outing on May 10. The fee is \$400.00 which includes four players and the meal. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve to sponsor a team for the outing to come out of the Public Relations fund. The motion passed unanimously. Lockridge also stated that clean-up week is May 6 through 10.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

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


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Marcia Mathew, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer