

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 22, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 22, 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 Russ Overton 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; City Attorney Jacob Ahler; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran, Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; 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. Absent were Council Member Ernest Watson, Jr; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart and Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Rick Williams; Jeff Rayburn; Russ Overton; Noelle Weishaar; and Ronald Kasparian.

The minutes of the April 8, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton and second by Hollerman to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Resolution 09-2019, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger told council that this resolution is to transfer \$3,300.00 in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office budget for renovations. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Drexel Parkway Road Closure Request: This was tabled from the April 8th council meeting. Council has been asked to close Drexel Parkway and St. Gaspar Drive for a Little 500 Cart Race on June 29, 2019. Kasparian asked to table this for two more weeks. Odle asked if council could ask questions. Kasparian said yes. Odle asked what the entry fee was. Kasparian said it was \$50.00 for a driver and \$3.00 for entry. They were also thinking about something like "Fill the Bus" where people could bring items instead of paying the entry fee. Odle said he was concerned that \$2M liability insurance policy will not be enough. If someone got hurt they would go through that \$2M and then look at the city. He was thinking more like \$15M or \$20M. Kasparian said the fairground carries a \$1M liability policy and thought a \$15M policy was unreasonable but said he couldn't get a quote unless he had a permit. Cover asked what the funds will be used for and Kasparian said it would be used to fund future races to help the city and Pumas come together again. They are starting a not-for-profit so they will be running the races like a business. Odle asked where startup money is coming from and Kasparian said from him but he's not able to fund it each year. Cover said he's concerned about the city's liability. Odle also has a concern about city liability. Kasparian said Haun said he could notify emergency personnel that the road is closed. Kasparian said he has talked to the theater owners and he would work race times around the theater shows. Cover said we are setting precedent. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, not to table this agenda item to the next meeting. The motion passed by majority, With Watson absent. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, not to allow the race to take place in the city. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Street Lighting on Wood Road: Larson said the mayor was approached by Bill Risner and Mike Kingman to install one street light along Wood Road. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the street light. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Change Council Meeting Date: Wood said the May 27th council meeting will fall on Memorial Day. He asked council about moving the meeting to Tuesday, May 28th. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve moving the meeting from May 27th to May 28th. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Public Relations Request: Wood asked for Public Relations Fund money to send flowers to Jim Hurd and Steve Miller for the loss of their mothers. Each will be up to \$75.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the public relations request. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Fund Request: Wood said the Chamber of Commerce asked for \$100 to help sponsor Shred Day. Bretzinger asked since they were getting donations if that meant they weren't charging for shredding. Wood said they were still going to charge. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Park Department Truck: Effinger said he has a 1999 Chevy truck that is going through water and oil. He said the mayor told him that there was money available in EDIT. There was a motion by Barton, second

by Odle, to allow Effinger to get quotes for a new truck. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

5K Run for Jeff Goad: Anderson said they are planning a 5K run on July 20th at 8:00 a.m. for Jeff Goad. The proceeds will go to Building Trades. The race will start and end at the high school. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Weston Street Parking: Anderson said with cars parking on both sides of Weston Street behind St. Augustine School the road is narrow and could only handle one lane traffic. If there were to be a fire, a fire truck wouldn't be able to get down the street. He will talk to the St. Augustine principal and see if he can get his staff to park somewhere else.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Barton said he was looking forward to clean up week and asked employees to be safe.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover asked if Odle had an update on the nuisance ordinance. Ahler said he should have it for the next meeting.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

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

Credit Card Activity Log: There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to allow the mayor to sign activity logs. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Larson had nothing. Grow said last week's stack test went well.

Fire Dept.: Haun said the fire dept. fish fry is May 3rd from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The city-wide yard sale is May 4th.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge said their open house is May 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Legal Dept.: Ahler had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Anderson said they are doing background checks on police applicants. Once they finish with that and staff interviews they will be ready for the Board of Works interviews.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said Practical Tree Service has started and have cut down ten trees so far. Lockridge stated that clean-up week is May 6th through 10th.

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


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer