

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
May 13, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on May 13, 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. Marcia Smith-Wood and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Bill Hollerman, Rick Odle; George Cover; City Attorney Mike Riley; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran, Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels. Absent were: Council Members Scott Barton and Ernest Watson, Jr.; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Rev. Marcia Smith-Wood, Russ Overton, Tama Larson, Delmar Conley.

The minutes of the April 22, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Resolution 10-2019, Gas Tracker: Smart said the gas tracker covers the cycle for May 2019 and reflects an increase of 12¢ per 100 cubic foot. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Ordinance 05-2019, Transfer to the Rainy Day Fund: Bretzinger said this ordinance is a \$50,000.00 transfer of unused and unencumbered funds from General Fund that can be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund. This will have to be appropriated within the Rainy Day Fund before it can be used. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 05-2019. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Purchase of Land for the Gas Distribution Pipeline: Riley explained we've been working on this for about six to eight months. This will eventually become our primary gas line serving the city. Negotiations have been slow. They have two sites and some donated property totaling 1.3 acres. There will be two parcels with each at a total of \$24,900.00 with a buffer strip between the parcels which is being donated by the Parkison family and being about ½ acre each. When you look at it and consider the cost of litigation for eminent domain and also the fact that you could get a much higher price if a jury decides on damages. He consulted with our bond counsel who already closed on the bond and he thought it would be in our best interest to make that offer. He's been negotiating verbally but if council gives its approval he can write up an offer for purchase. Wood said he thought it was a total of 1.13 instead of 1.3 acres and Riley said that was correct. Bretzinger asked for clarification of the acreage on the parcels. Riley said they haven't been surveyed yet but each is about ½ acre. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to accept the offer by Kathy Parkison for the land. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Ratify Poll of Council for Purchase of O'Brien Property: Wood said right now we are looking for more land to purchase for future water sites and we are committed to an area south of us. Our newest well site is right behind Banet Substation. We have two other wells and one of those wells has been giving us problems. Wood would like to purchase more land. O'Brien purchased some tillable land and wooded area behind St. Joseph's College. Wood asked Riley if that was correct. Riley said Ahler has been negotiating with O'Brien. He said it's funny when you start negotiating with people and they don't really care about the price until you start talking about the price. O'Brien thought \$2,500.00 an acre is low but Riley felt it was a fair price. Wood said Peerless-Midwest looked at the property and said there are two to three good fracture points. Wood added that if we get the land we should probably do a test well in the next year or two. The forty-six (46) acres can be purchased for \$2,500.00 an acre, bringing the selling price to \$115,000.00 and will be purchased by the water utility. Wood polled each of the council members and they each voted yes. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to ratify the poll taken by the mayor to purchase the property. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Appointment to the School Board: The city received one letter of interest for the school board opening and the interested person is Kevin Arnold. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to re-appoint Kevin Arnold to the school board. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Mayor's Holiday: Wood chose July 5th as the Mayor's Holiday. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the Mayor's Holiday as July 5th. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Thirty Year Award for Lenny Larson: Wood congratulated Lenny Larson for thirty years of service with the city. He was awarded a watch.

Tax Abatement CF-1 Forms Approval: There were eight tax abatement forms that went before the Tax Abatement Committee and they are as follows: two CF-1 RE forms for ConAgra and two CF-1 PP forms for ConAgra; a CF-1 PP form for Genova Products; one CF-1 UD form for IMPA; one CF-1 RE form for National Gypsum and one CF-1 PP form for National Gypsum. The committee recommended approval of the forms. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to accept the committee's recommendation to approve the forms. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent. A CF-1 PP form for Rensselaer 2 Solar Array, LLC was presented for approval as this was not received in time to go before the Tax Abatement Committee. There was a motion by Hollerman, Odle, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Purchase of Park Department Truck: Effinger received quotes for a truck for the park dept. They are as follows: Fieldhouse Chrysler Dodge Ram-2019 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab-\$27,923.00 with \$1,500.00 trade in. \$26,423.00. Fieldhouse Ford-2019 Ford F 150 XL SuperCab-\$40,288.00, with \$1,500 trade in. \$29,689.25. Wiers Chevrolet-2019 Chevy 1500 Silverado DoubleCab-\$29,000.00 with \$1,500.00 trade in. \$27,680.00. To add a Woodbine "Tommy-Gate" it would bring the price to \$30,327.00. Cover asked if there was money in his budget and Wood said the money was coming out of EDIT Funds. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the purchase of the Dodge. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Sealed Bid for Bucket Truck Sale: One offer was received and Riley opened the bid. Power Construction Group bid \$22,510.00. There was a motion by Odle, second by Cover, to accept the bid. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent.

Committee Reports: Cover said he went on the other side of the building to see how the work is going. He said it looks pretty good but there's areas of painting that needs to be touched up. He is going to ask the gentleman to come in and touch-up some paint. He feels this needs to be done before payment is made.

Administrative Comments:

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover thanked Daniels and his crew for the efficiency of clean up week. He thanked everyone that worked.

Hollerman echoed Cover's comments.

Odle said it was amazing to see the clean up.

Wood wasn't able to help with clean up week.

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

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 had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

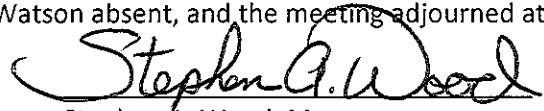
Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Anderson said they will narrow the police applicants down to three and interview them before the Board of Works on May 28, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Thirty vehicles were tagged for clean-up week but none of them had to be towed.

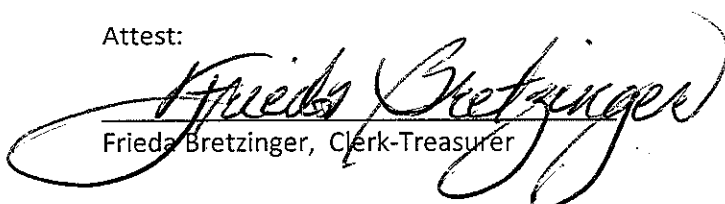
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels thanked everyone for clean-up week. They filled 25 garbage trucks which is about 190 tons of garbage, picked up 61 tires, 19 loads of brush, 38 loads of yard waste and grass, and 27 4X4 boxes of electronics, 18 loads of scrap metal. He said they covered about 25 miles per day and had 23 employees working each day of clean-up week and several volunteers. About 58 trees have been removed.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Watson absent, and the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer