

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
September 9, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on September 9, 2019 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed 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; 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; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Superintendent Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Billy Kirkham with Colonial Life; Stace Pickering with C/I; Russ Overton; Jasper County Sheriff Pat Williamson.

The minutes of the August 26, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman and second by Odle to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Schenk said we are less than two weeks away from the 2nd Annual Memories of Life Cemetery Walk. There was a run-through yesterday with the actors and it went very well. He felt it will be very informative and an entertaining event. If anyone needs tickets please see Cochran.

Public Hearing for 2020 Budget: There was a motion by Watson, second by Barton, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Bretzinger read the proposed budget. General Fund budget estimate is \$3,886,621.00 and a tax levy of \$1,626,421.00. Motor Vehicle Highway Fund budget estimate is \$604,677 with a tax levy of \$407,811. Local Road and Street budget estimate is \$56,624.00 with no tax levy. Economic Development Income Tax budget estimate is \$417,663.00 with no tax levy. Redevelopment Commission-General with a budget estimate of \$27,800.00 and a tax levy of 7,683.00. Police Continuing Ed Fund with a budget estimate of \$5,500.00 and no tax levy. Rainy Day Fund budget estimate of \$50,000.00 with no tax levy. Public Safety LOIT budget estimate of \$364,550.00 with no tax levy; Debt Service budget estimate of \$105,269.00 with a tax levy of \$80,115.00; Cumulative Capital Improvement Fund budget estimate of \$51,608 with no tax levy; Cumulative Capital Development Fund budget estimate of \$350,000.00 and a tax levy of \$85,562.00; Riverboat Fund with a budget estimate of \$90,000.00 with no tax levy and LOIT Special Distribution Fund budget estimate of \$1,553.00 with no tax levy. Bretzinger asked if there were any comments on the proposed budget. There were none. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 09-2019, An Additional Appropriation Ordinance: Bretzinger said this ordinance is to re-appropriate \$16,332.50 back to the police department budget in General Fund for the totaled squad car. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 17-2019, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger said this resolution was prepared per the request of the department heads. Transfers in the Sanitation Department amounted to \$11,000.00; MVH Fund in the amount of \$15,675.00, EDIT Fund in the amount of \$11,065.36, and in the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$51,000.00. Barton asked what the transfer into professional services are for in MVH and Riverboat. Lockridge said the transfers are for chipping of the brush pile and seal coating parking lots. Barton asked about the EDIT transfer into machinery & equipment and Lockridge said that was for a snow plow for Unit #4. Barton asked what other services and charges in Riverboat was for and Lockridge said that was for road salt. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to approve the transfer. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 18-2019, Gas Tracker: Carol Lockridge said the tracker reflects a 4¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Vacating an Easement: Wood said he knew we didn't have the resolution for the vacation of an easement but asked Haun to explain. Haun said he sent council an e-mail regarding a vacation of an easement on the property of Autumn Trace. Jacob doesn't have the resolution finished but what is happening is we agreed to vacate a 20 foot easement about a year ago. Now the lenders of Autumn Trace are asking for that documentation. Haun is asking for action in the meeting that will be reflected in the minutes so that we can give the minutes to Autumn Trace. Wood said Riley can see that the resolution gets done. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to vacate the easement. The motion passed unanimously.

INDOT Right-Of-Way: Wood said INDOT wants to buy two parcels from the city for rights-of-way. One location is at McKinley and Angelica and the other is at Washington and Front. INDOT's street project includes putting in handicapped ramps at these locations. Barton asked if they are buying it, what is the compensation package. Wood said they are giving \$1,000 for one and \$1,000 for the other. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the two rights-of way plats and to allow the mayor to sign the paperwork. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Fund: Smart asked for \$500.00 from Public Relations Fund to serve customers lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on October 11th for Customer Service Week. Wood also said it was Public Power Week. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the request. Smart also asked for flowers for an employee who lost her father-in-law. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the request up to \$100.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Seal Coating: Wood had one more add-on which is for city seal coating. Lockridge said he received two quotes to seal coat the municipal parking lots at Front and Kellner and Front and Washington, the water plant, the wastewater treatment plant, city hall, the fire station, the street department (excluding the recycle area), and the electric department. Kaufman Seal Coating quoted \$23,025.00 and Town & Country quoted \$26,715.00. Lockridge recommended hiring Kaufman Seal Coating. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to award the project to Kaufman Seal Coating. The motion passed unanimously.

Colonial Life Presentation: Billy Kirkham wants to introduce Employment Navigator and offer this to the city. This is offered free of charge if we become a Colonial Life client. He said this is an employment platform and an HR platform. We could do enrollment and changes through this. Any changes can be made on this platform. HR is notified through this navigator. AmeriFlex is a partner that will manage H S A accounts and will not charge for the program. They will also set up a benefits website called Youville. This will prepare employees and families of benefits offered by the city come enrollment time. Barton asked how long it takes for a change to be backed up. Kirkham said immediately. Cover said he was concerned that pre-existing conditions are exempt and rolling over to a new company would lose that coverage. Kirkham said if they know someone has a pre-existing condition his company will not allow them to be moved. Barton asked about a 30 day waiting period. Kirkham said the only thing that has a 30 day waiting period is the wellness benefit; everything else is immediate coverage. He also said if there is a pre-existing condition and the health questions have not been answered truthfully, then that is also a problem. Wood appointed a committee of Cover, Barton and Bretzinger. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to approve the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Jasper County Sheriff: Wood asked Sheriff Williamson if he had a comment. Williamson said he is trying to go around to some of the towns in Jasper County and sit in on a meeting.

Administrative Comments:

Cover had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

Barton asked Lockridge about people marking lines on Owen Street. H said he's had a couple of calls. Lockridge said Commonwealth has a crew that is working on station replacement and unsewered areas so they have to do some locates. He said Commonwealth is supposed to be notifying people in the area of the work they're doing. He said both projects will have options. Cover said he got some calls from concerned customers.

Hollerman said the Little Cousin Jasper Festival was handled very nicely by the sheriff's office and the city police department.

Odle had nothing.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said the Plan Commission will be meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. to discuss consolidating the TIF areas.

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

Fire Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

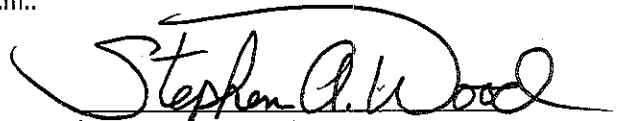
Park Dept.: Effinger said the park board and corporation is building a shelter at Staddon Field and asked that the building permit be waived. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to waive the building permit fee. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Dept.: Anderson said they have fifteen applicants. Written and physical testing will be this Saturday.

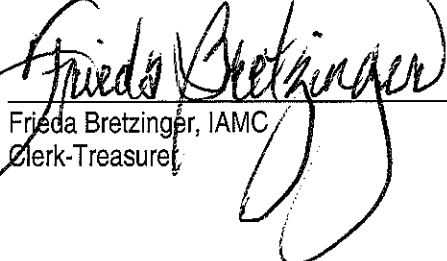
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels had nothing. Lockridge said there is an IDEM inspection on Wednesday. This is done every seven years.

Utilities: Smart said they had several customers commenting on the street being closed and the difficulties they had paying utility bills. She wanted to share that since Mrs. Klockow was also in with a complaint. Bretzinger asked about how many people complained and Smart said about a dozen. Bretzinger said the roads weren't closed until about 2:00 p.m.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m..


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, IAMC
Clerk-Treasurer