

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
October 14, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on October 14, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, Rick Odle; City Attorney Representative Jacob Ahler; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; 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 arrived after roll call. Absent were: Council Members George Cover and Ernest Watson, Jr., Utility Office Manager Heather Smart.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Mike Harper with Lawrenceburg Utilities; Duane Richardson, Executive Director with IMEA. John and Linda Shank; Adam Black; Ab Kiger; Garrett Welker; Jim Miller; Jon and Arlene Castongia; Nancy Klockow; Stace Pickering with C/I; Council-Elect Russ Overton.

The minutes of the September 23, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman and second by Odle to approve the minutes. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

**Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:** Linda Shank asked for clarification with the installation of the sewer system. She said residents on Wood, Owen and Matheson Streets have been told various stories by council members and superintendents. They don't think it's right and they should be kept informed. She said this isn't their fault. The city dug a well on Matheson and took their water. The Shanks were without water for a week so they had to dig a deeper well and the city wouldn't own up to it. Now the city has owned up to it and the city has to provide all services the rest of the city residents have because now they are part of the city. She said they just want to be treated the same as other citizens and what do they need to do. They just want to be kept informed and when this is going to happen. Wood said this project has been a long time coming. This project consists of a main lift station and unsewered areas. We got a grant through Rural Development for \$2,000,000.00 and a low interest loan for \$3,000,000.00. He said he didn't know anything about the city running their water dry because that was the previous administration. He said all of this takes time. He said they just hired an engineer and finished up the survey. He said once the design is done then we will know what needs to go out there. There will be a decision by council on whether there will be pumps and grinders but we are going to run gravity as far as we can. Council will decide on who pays for the pumps and grinders and the maintenance on them, not him. But we don't know what is going on until the design is finished. Shank said she's been doing research on pumps and grinders and they run on electricity. These last three years or less and one of the biggest problems is the electrical surges and brownouts. The fluctuation of electricity will burn out these pumps. She said they've had to replace a freezer, a refrigerator motor and the motor on their furnace is going out because they have been having these surges of electricity. She said they as citizens should have the same benefits as other users. Odle said he and Cover have been getting phone calls and Odle suggested that these people come to a meeting. Shank asked if they will be able to see what the design will be before the project starts. Wood said yes. Castongia wanted clarification that their sewer rates will be the same as everyone else in the city and that they would not be charged a surcharge. Wood said they would be the same. She added that it should not be up to the homeowner to maintain those lift stations just because the city put in a well. She asked if the city bores under their driveways or tear up their driveways will the city fix them. Wood said yes. Wood said maybe we will bid this project out in the winter. She asked to be kept informed. John Shank said there was no communication. He said a lot of the residents along Wood Road are new owners and they are young. They probably won't be able to afford additional expenses. Wood said there shouldn't be any additional costs. Linda Shank said they would have to abandon their septic tanks and that would be an additional cost of opening the tank, cleaning it, and filling it with sand or stone. Lockridge said there will be some installation costs associated with the new system. Most people that are gravity fed will hook in to gravity line prior to the tank and continue the line to the new system. Then they will have to pump the septic tank out and fill it in.

**Ordinance 10-2019, 2020 Salary Ordinance:** The salary ordinance was provided to the administration and department heads. This ordinance reflects a 3% increase. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to pass Ordinance 10-2019 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

**Resolution 23-2019, Transfer of Funds:** Bretzinger said this resolution was prepared at the request of the mayor to purchase the house on Clark Street.. This resolution is to transfer \$64,400.00 within EDIT Fund and \$18,600.00 within Cumulative Capital Improvement Fund. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

**Resolution 24-2019, Gas Tracker:** Lockridge said this tracker reflects .013¢ increase per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

**IMEA Awards:** Richardson said Lawrenceburg held a rodeo three weeks ago. This is a competition. Tonight he wants to recognize the apprentices that participated. He presented awards to Ab Kiger, Adam Black and Garrett Welker for their participation and achievements. Welker won the traveling trophy.

**Closing on 817 W. Clark Street Property:** Wood told council that we will be closing on the property at 817 W. Clark Street on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We are paying \$78,000.00 for the property. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to go ahead and close on the property. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

**Public Relations Request for Death of Employee's Brother:** There was a request for \$85.00 from Public Relations Fund for flowers for an employee's brother. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the expense. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

**Public Relations Request for Halloween "Safe Kids":** Haun made a request for \$250.00 from the Public Relations Fund to assist with the Safe Kids Halloween Event. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Bretzinger** had nothing.

**Wood** had nothing.

**Barton** had nothing.

**Hollerman** had nothing.

**Odle** appreciated Wood's explanation of the sewer project to the citizens tonight.

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

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Building Dept.:** Haun had nothing.

**Cemetery Dept.:** Cochran had nothing.

**Electric Dept.:** Larson thanked the mayor and council for the flowers when his brother died. Grow had nothing.

**Fire Dept.:** Haun said fire prevention week went well. They probably had four to five hundred people go through the fire house during their open house. They are having major issues with the aerial fire truck again. Sometimes the basket will go up and sometimes it won't or they can't get it down. Someone is looking at it toward the end of October.

**Gas Dept.:** Lockridge had nothing.

**Legal Dept.:** Ahler had nothing.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger had nothing.

**Police Dept.:** Anderson said they are down to five candidates and after interviews they will cut the candidates to three. November 19<sup>th</sup> will be a county council meeting to discuss the Spillman software. He thinks the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels said they are about 80% done with blacktopping. They are working on Scott Street. About ¾ of the concrete is done. Lockridge said they have closed one of the four DES numbers for the Community Crossing Grant. They've also been flushing hydrants.

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

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, IAMC  
Clerk-Treasurer