

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
November 12, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on November 12, 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. Jeff Cover with the First Presbyterian Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Brandon Schreeg with Kimley Horn; Andy Nagel with Ceres Solutions.

The minutes of the October 28, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton and second by Odle to approve the minutes. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman and Cover absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Resolution 26-2019, Gas Tracker: Lockridge told the council the gas tracker reflects a 2¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Hollerman absent.

Phase 2 of the Downtown Revitalization Project (Washington and Cullen Streets): Schreeg said he started this process back in August of 2017. The phase currently being worked on is from the Iroquois River to Cullen Street. They also looked at the county property for the Farmers Market. Grant funding opportunities include an OCRA grant and INDOT has a grant that would be for the year 2025. They've held meetings with city department heads and the steering committee. They've also met with the DNR because the downtown is a historic district. This project would be a StreetScape type of enhancement which would include street lights, sidewalks and renovating the downtown brick roads. State Transportation Improvement Program is an INDOT Program. He estimates that the project will be \$7.3M. The city would have to come up with the 20% match. The city match would be around \$1.5M. Lockridge said this would be a good avenue for the funding of the lighting, sidewalks, drainage and roads and infrastructure. He thinks this would be our best option to fund a project like this. Bretzinger asked if we are borrowing the money for the local match. Lockridge said we would have time to raise some money. Wood said he talked to John Julien and he's working on our options. Schreeg is asking that the mayor sign a commitment letter. Barton said he would like to know where the money is coming from. Odle said if we can't come up with \$300,000.00 a year for five years then there's something wrong with your planning. Wood said there's several ways such as a General Obligation Bond or TIF money. Wood verified with Pickering that Main Street is completely behind this project. Watson said we also have to think about the sewer downtown and upgrading that. Riley said if we sign the letter and can't come up with the money in 2025 then we just lose the grant. Schreeg said it would hurt our chances of getting future grants. Barton asked if we are awarded the grant in February, then when do we have to say where the money is coming from. Schreeg said at that point we would have to be more detailed about where the money is coming from. Lockridge said the Melville Street Project was similar and we didn't have to come up with the money until right before construction. He said the state will send a letter and say this is your share of the project and you have so many days to pay the funds to them. The application is due November 21st so this is the last meeting before the deadline. Bretzinger asked Haun if he could limp the aerial fire truck through another five years. Haun said he couldn't predict that. Odle asked what that has to do with this. Bretzinger said we were talking about saving money for a new aerial and we aren't going to be able to do both. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to authorize the mayor to sign the commitment letter for the grant. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Hollerman absent.

Opening of 2020 City Supply Bids: Bretzinger said we received one bid for Item #1 and one bid for Item #2

Item #1 Gasoline: Ceres Solutions bid tankwagon price of \$1.795.

Item #2 Diesel Fuel: Ceres Solutions bid tankwagon price of \$2.211 for Diesel R Biodiesel and a tankwagon price of \$2.256 for Premium Diesel R Biodiesel.

Item #3 Tire Repair: No bid.

Wood appointed a committee of Lockridge, Watson and Odle to go over the bids and make a recommendation.

2020 Pavement Management Plan by First Group: Lockridge said First Group's contract is \$23,750.00 and this is for the Community Crossings Grant and the road construction project.. This is due December 1st. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the contract. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Hollerman absent.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Watson had nothing.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

Barton had nothing.

Odle had nothing.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing.

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

Fire Dept.: Haun said they are looking for parts to repair what they think is wrong with the aerial fire truck before they take the whole back end off.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.


Park Dept.: Effinger asked for two cabs and a snow plow for the mules for a total of \$9,839.90. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the purchase. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Hollerman absent.

Police Dept.: Anderson said the BPW offered conditional employment to Justin Wilson.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said striping was done last week and sod is finished on Scott Street. Lockridge is having issues with the sticker program. Trash is missing stickers. If they don't pick it up and it ends up in the street. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to hire Baker-Tilly to look in to our sticker program. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Hollerman absent. Lockridge has an employee at the wastewater utility that wants the city to pay for a portion of his education. He will be bringing this before council at a later date.

Utilities: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Hollerman absent and the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:



Frieda Bretzinger, IAMC
Clerk-Treasurer