

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
November 25, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on November 25, 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, 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; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Absent were: Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels.

Also in attendance were Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Cheryl Eckstrom; Nancy Klockow; Rev. Jeff Cover with the First Presbyterian Church; Council Elect Russ Overton; Council Elect Noelle Weishaar; Randy Denton; Andrew Robarge with Commonwealth Engineers.

The minutes of the November 12, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton and second by Odle to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:** There were none.

**Resolution 27-2019, Transfer of Funds:** Bretzinger read Resolution 27-2019. Transfers were \$49,248.15 for General Fund and \$30,750.00 for MVH Unrestricted. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Baker Tilly Agreement for Services for Trash Study:** Wood presented a contract with Baker Tilly for them to do a rate study for the trash pickup service. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to enter into the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Deed Request:** Bretzinger read a cemetery deed request for Jerry Smith. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**2020 City Supply Bids:** Lockridge said the committee reviewed the bids and recommended Ceres Solutions for Item #1, Unleaded gasoline and Item #2, Diesel. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to accept the recommendation of the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Owen Street Sewer:** Lockridge said there was a meeting with the citizens that live on Owen Street and Wood Road concerning the sewer system that is to be installed. Robarge said there are three options. Option #1, Low Pressure; Option #2, gravity sewers; and Option #3, gravity sewer with a lift station. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to accept Option #3. Barton asked where the additional funds will come from. Robarge said they would go back to Rural Development and ask for more funds. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 11-2019, Establishing a Fire Donation Fund:** Bretzinger said as a result of the devastating downtown fire there are people wanting to donate to the fire department. Since the fire department is a not-for-profit organization they would like to run donations through the city. In order to do this we would need to establish a fund and specify what the funds could be used for. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

**Credit Card Activity Log:** Wood asked permission to sign the credit card activity log. There was a motion by Odle, second by Cover, to approve the mayor signing the activity log. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Statement for Rural Development:** Lockridge prepared the annual financial report and is asking for permission for Bretzinger to sign the report. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve Bretzinger to sign the financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Cover** thanked the fire department for its work during the fire.

**Watson** had nothing.

**Hollerman** thanked the fire and police departments for their work during the downtown fire.

**Bretzinger** also thanked the fire department. She was at the fire department the night after the fire and saw what they have to do after a fire. Bretzinger asked permission to make budget cuts for a response to the 1782 Notice. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to allow Bretzinger to make the cuts. The motion passed unanimously.

**Wood** echoed the same sentiments.

**Barton** also thanked the fire and police departments and the way the community came together to support all of the fire departments and the police department.

**Odle** had nothing.

**Claims Approval:** The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the claims as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Superintendents Reports:**

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

**Cemetery Dept:** Cochran had nothing.

**Electric Dept.:** Larson had nothing.

**Fire Dept.:** Haun said thanks to everyone that was there for the fire and everyone behind the scene. Hats off to the police department and utility workers. The citizens also were there with food and water for the firefighters, police and workers. Parts for the aerial are in so it goes to the shop tomorrow. A billing company in Brownsburg contacted him regarding their services. They bill insurance companies for fire responses. He's trying to come up with ways to generate revenue for the fire department.

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

**Legal Dept:** Riley had nothing.

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

**Police Dept.:** Anderson said they are looking at the dispatch software.


**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Lockridge wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Utilities:** Smart had nothing.

Schenk wished everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

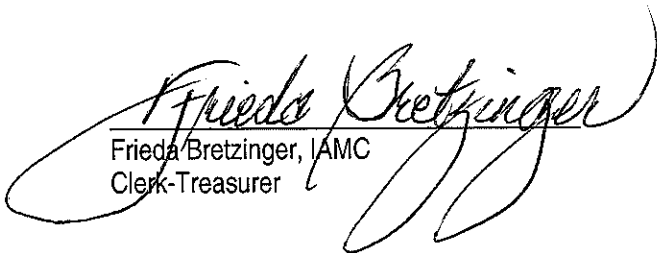
Overton thanked everyone in the community for response during the fire.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:



Frieda Bretzinger, IAMC  
Clerk-Treasurer