

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
January 13, 2020**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on January 13, 2020 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. Kenin Smith with the Hope Community Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Russ Overton, Bill Hollerman, Noelle Weishaar; George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Jacob Ahler; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican.

Also in attendance were Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Jeff Phillips with the Foundation for Fair Contracting; Kevin Swartz; Tyler Swartz; Jon Wilson; Jacob Wilson; Justin Wilson; Karen Wilson; Kenin Smith with Hope Community Church; Phil Weishaar; Jim Miller; Tori Hickman.

The minutes of the December 23, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman and second by Overton to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Swearing In Of New Police Officer: Bretzinger performed the oath of office for new police officer Justin Wilson.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

President of the Council: Cover opened the floor for nominations for president of the council. Hollerman nominated George Cover as president and Watson seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Cover announced there was a motion on the floor for George Cover to stay on as president with a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 01-2020; Establish a Fire Billing Service Fund: Haun introduced an ordinance to establish a Fire Billing Service Fund. This fund will receive collections from Premier Billing Services when the fire department starts billing for certain fire calls. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 01-2020 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 01-2020, Gas Tracker: Lockridge said this tracker reflects a 5 1/4¢ increase per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Establish an Ordinance for Responsible Bidding Practices: Jeff Phillips with the Foundation for Fair Contracting presented a look at responsive and responsible bidding and the quality of the bidding. He talked to each council member except Hollerman before the meeting to discuss this. This makes sure that the contractor is licensed to do business in the State of Indiana. The bidder would also have to disclose any violations of federal or state laws and any liens or delinquencies. He said the state is very good about defining a responsive bidder but not a responsible bidder. They come in and help define responsible bidders. He drafted an ordinance for council's review. Overton asked if there is a charge for this and Phillips said there is not. Bretzinger asked if we are bidding a project if he can help us. He said yes, just contact him. Ahler has reviewed the ordinance and this gives the city extra tools to investigate who the city is hiring. Bretzinger asked if they use E-Verify and Phillips said kind of. They usually go through the Secretary of State's Office. Lockridge said this is just another step that we take to get quality work. Bretzinger said we are supposed to accept the lowest bid but if we don't, do we get that in writing. He said usually you get something in writing stating this is why we aren't accepting the lowest bid and this is something he can help us with. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

Cemetery Deed Request: Bretzinger read a deed request for Janet L. Delaney. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the deed request. The motion passed unanimously.

Software Changes: Anderson said he was hoping to come in and ask council for approval but the county has had some issues. We're probably looking at the end of February or first of March before the county makes its decision.

Committee Reports: Wood would like to look in to our rates and charges for the cemetery. Cochran, Overton and Watson were appointed to a committee.

Appointments: Wood read some of his appointments. Cover read the council appointments and there was a motion by Overton, second by Hollerman, to approve council appointments. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Comments:

Cover thanked the employees for their work.

Watson had nothing.

Bretzinger welcomed Russ and Noelle.

Wood had nothing.

Overton thanked everyone for voting for him.

Hollerman welcomed Russ and Noelle also.

Weishaar thanked Barton and Odle for their years of service.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun submitted his annual report.

Cemetery: Cochran had nothing.

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

Fire Dept.: Haun said they've had another setback on the part for the aerial fire truck so it's out of service until the first of February.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal: Ahler said he was looking forward to working with everyone.

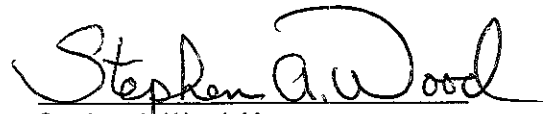
Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Anderson said Walker started the academy today and it will be there for sixteen weeks.

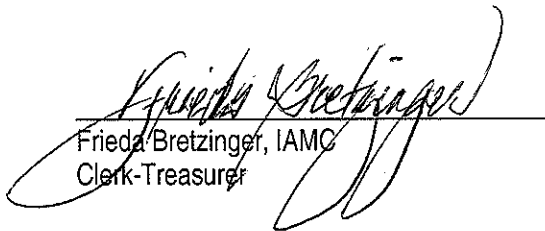
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels had nothing. Lockridge said we will be having a meeting with the engineer on January 21st regarding the Main Lift Station and Unsewered areas.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, IAMC
Clerk-Treasurer