

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

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on July 13, 2020 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 122 S. Van Rensselaer Street, Rensselaer, Indiana. Mayor Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by invocation offered by Rev. Marcia Smith-Wood 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; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge. Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson, Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican.

Also in attendance were Pat Fox with Little Cousin Jasper Festival; Carolyn Wright with IMPA, Stace Pickering with C/I Insurance.

The minutes of the June 22, 2020 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Cover and second by Overton to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions:

Pat Fox with Little Cousin Jasper Festival asked for street closings for the festival. They are as follows: Harrison from Cullen to Van Rensselaer, 6:00 am to 9:00 pm on September 10th and 11th. Harrison from Cullen to Front and Van Rensselaer from Washington to Rutsen, 6:00 am to 10:00 am for 5-K Run and Harrison from Cullen to Van Rensselaer, 6:00 am to 9:00 pm on September 12th. Harrison from Cullen to Van Rensselaer, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm on September 13th. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the requested street closings. The motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Wright with IMPA said our current power sales agreement expires in 2042. Rensselaer is an original member, joining in 1982. At that time the city signed a fifty-year contract. If the city decides to terminate its contract with IMPA we have to give notice in 2032. They are a long-term oriented organization so that is why they are here now. Nineteen communities have already extended their contracts. Wright said IMPA's electric rates are among the lowest wholesale rates in Indiana. As of January 1, 2019, IMPA reduced wholesale rates 1% on average. IMPA is moving toward clean, renewable energy. In doing this, IMPA is building solar farms, with two here in Rensselaer. Some of IMPA's generation is getting old and they will soon be retiring them and with that they will need to build new generation to replace those units. Cover said he would favor extending our contract. Weishaar said if the 50-year contract was signed in 1982 wouldn't it expire in 2032. Wright said Rensselaer signed an extension Ahler said he is comfortable with the contract but the decision to extend the contract. There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to move forward with execution of the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 13-2020, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger read the transfer of \$270,000.00 within the CCD budget. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-2020, Gas Tracker: Lockridge told council that this tracker is a 7 ¼ cent increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

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

FMLA Request: Bretzinger presented a request from an employee for FMLA. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Holiday: Wood asked council to approve the Mayor's Holiday as September 4, 2020. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to approve the Mayor's Holiday as September 4, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Comments:

Weishaar had nothing. Hollerman had nothing. Overton had nothing. Wood had nothing. Bretzinger had nothing. Watson said he wants to get the Meals On Wheels Program out to the public. Cover asked Lockridge to talk to the railroad about smoothing out the railroad crossing on Cullen Street.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented to council for its approval. There was a motion by Overton, second by Hollerman, to approve the claims. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Department: Haun has a BZA meeting tomorrow night.

Cemetery Department: Cochran had nothing.

Electric Department: Larson had nothing. Grow had nothing.

Fire Department: Haun said they've had 27 runs since the last council meeting.

Gas Department: Carol Lockridge congratulated Daniels for 40 years. Wood asked if the city does anything for forty years of service. Bretzinger said the city does not. Her employees planned and paid for her party.

Legal Department: Ahler has a resolution for the next meeting regarding council meeting time..

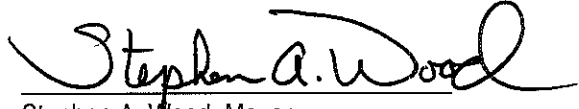
Park Department: Effinger had nothing.

Police Department: Anderson said they had no issues with Cruise Night. The second protest was not as big but more emotional. The Redevelopment Commission approved paying the bills for the new police software.

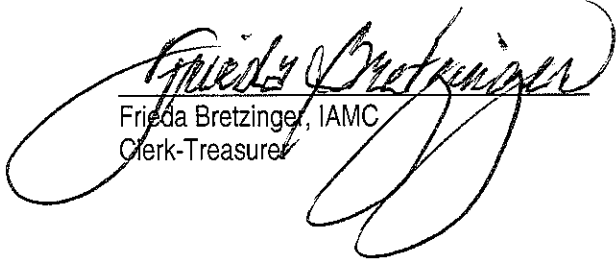
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Departments: Daniels said the SR 114 project should be wrapping up this week. They will be starting the US 231 project. Lockridge also congratulated Daniels for 40 years.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, 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