

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
July 29, 2020**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on July 29, 2020 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 124 S. Van Rensselaer Street, Rensselaer, Indiana. Mayor Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

Also in attendance was Police Sergeant Matt McAleer.

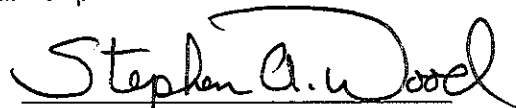
The meeting was called to discuss the 2021 budget.

With calculations of our tax levy at \$1,921,823.00 and our max levy at \$1,613,876.00 it is estimated that we have \$307,947.00 to cut. Meeting with Bretzinger, Wood and Lockridge it was offered to cut \$150,000.00 from the street resurfacing appropriation in the MVH budget and reduce the current budget in the same category for this year of \$100,000.00. That leaves \$57,947.00 to cut. Bretzinger explained that with all of the problems with Gateway she is not confident with the numbers and we may have to come up with more cuts toward the end of the year. Council decided to submit the budget as it is.


Council decided to give a 1% raise. Offering \$1,500 to an employee that has an H S A was also agreed upon. There was a motion by Cover and second by Hollerman to give a 1% pay raise and contribute \$1,500.00 per employee for his/her H S A account. The motion passed unanimously.

Wood said he and Haun have been talking about a full-time fire chief and then turned the discussion over to Haun. Haun said they have been working on this for about a year. He said he hadn't talked to Bretzinger about pay but he was thinking it could be paid from Public Safety LOIT. He said on an average, he spends about three hours a day on fire work. Cover asked if Marion Township Trustee is willing to contribute to the pay. Haun said Hayworth is interested in helping with the cost but he doesn't know how much. Watson said he thinks the township should pay half. Bretzinger said right now the city only pays him for city runs. He said he gets \$15.00 per city run from the city and \$15.00 per township run from the township. Bretzinger said if the city pays him a full-time salary then the city is paying him for all runs. Haun said his hope is that the township pays half and he agrees with Watson. Cover asked what he budgeted for his salary and Bretzinger said he budgeted \$70,000.00. Haun said what he and Bretzinger discussed a few months ago is that whatever Hayworth pays would go to General Fund to help fund the fire budget. Cover said he's not opposed to the position; he's just trying to figure out how to fund it. Cover agreed, Marion Township should contribute. Wood said he wants the position and he wants Hayworth to kick in part of the salary.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Overton, second by Hollerman, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, IAMC
Clerk-Treasurer