

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
October 13, 2014**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on October 13, 2014 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 Councilman Overton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, Russ Overton, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr.; City Attorney Representative Jessica Arnold; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt. Ron DeMoss; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Mike Murphy and Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge. Robert Blankenship with the Rensselaer Republican arrived after roll call. Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Electric Utility Coordinator Donna Cochran; and Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson were absent.

Also in attendance were: Rick Odle; Robert Schenk; Monica Maienbrook.

The September 22, 2014 regular council minutes were presented and unanimously approved upon a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman.

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

**Budget Ordinance 19-2014:** Bretzinger announced that this is the adoption for the 2015 budget. It reads as follows:

Fund	Budget	Tax Levy	Tax Rate
Riverboat Wagering	\$ 52,549.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
Rainy Day	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
General	\$3,304,072.00	\$1,599,063.00	0.8782
Debt Payment	\$ 110,825.00	\$ 65,753 .00	0.0361
— Local Income Tax	\$ 336,017.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
Local Road and Street	\$ 28,399.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
Motor Vehicle Highway	\$ 514,312.00	\$ 144,554.00	0.0794
Continuing Education	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
Cumulative Capital Improvement	\$ 14,824.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 76,057.00	0.0418
Economic Development Income Tax	\$ 321,000.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
Redevelopment General	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 7,247.00	0.0040

There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to adopt the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 26-2014, Transfer of Funds:** Bretzinger said this resolution transfer consists of \$7,676.00 within General Fund. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to approve Resolution 26-2014. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 27-2014, Gas Tracker:** Lockridge told council we are seeing about a 2¢ per 100 cu. ft. decrease. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Overton, to approve Resolution 27-2014. The motion passed unanimously.

— **Rensselaer Urban Forestry Council:** Odle told council he knew he was already too late for requests for this budget but would like to be put in as a line item for the next budget. Wood asked if this was something they will want each year. Odle said they would like \$1,500 annually and the reason is because when they get grants from the state it's getting tighter on grant money and if they get a grant this year, next year they can't. Cover said he's only asking for \$1,500 to beautify the city. Wood is all for it but this year he didn't know. Odle said he'd like to have it now but if they could get it next year then that would be fine. Bretzinger said we hit this year's budget hard with street resurfacing and next year's budget was just adopted earlier in tonight's meeting. We could probably find \$1,500 but we can't donate so the forestry council would have to bill us for the service they provide to the city. Wood said we have money in the Public Relations Fund. There was a motion by Overton, second by Hollerman, to pay this from Public Relations Fund if the money is available. The motion passed unanimously.

**HSA Contribution:** Bretzinger said she asked council at the last meeting to think about the contribution for employee HSA accounts for next year. Wood said he looked it up and in 2012 council gave \$1,100 and 2013 it gave \$1,500. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to give \$1,500 to the accounts. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ratify Council Poll to Seal Cemetery Streets:** Wood said he contacted Watson, Barton and Overton to approve the work. There was a motion by Watson, second by Barton, to ratify council poll to have the sealing done for \$9,500. The motion passed unanimously. DeMoss said it was probably a \$5,000 savings.

**Replace 1995 Vehicle for the Electric Utility:** Overton said the 1995 Suburban has the rear differential is going out and will be about \$3,000 to repair. The front suspension is also rusted out. Perhaps we need to replace it but not with another Suburban. Watson said we should be looking at a new vehicle if we have the money. Cover said you can get a great used vehicle for about \$10,000 less than a new one. Watson said used cars can sometimes run as much as a new car and we need to think about the warranty. Overton said if you buy a used vehicle with 20,000 miles then the manufacturer's warranty will go to 50,000 miles. Hollerman said we are talking about a vehicle that hauls seven to eight people. Wood appointed a committee of Watson, Barton, Cochran and Jerry Lockridge. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to replace the 1995 Suburban with a new vehicle. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:** Overton reported he hasn't heard any numbers but was told OktoberFest was a success. Hollerman thanked Smart for the credit card report she provided to them. Barton, Wood, Bretzinger, Watson and Cover had nothing.

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

**Supt Reports:**

**Electric Utility:** Grow said they will be generating tomorrow.

**Gas Dept:** Lockridge thanked council for the contribution to the HSA Accounts. They are working on service lines and have six lines yet to install. St. Joseph's gas line should be in by Thursday.

**Legal Dept.:** Arnold had nothing.

**Park Dept:** Effinger had nothing.

**Police Dept.:** Phillips said the Safe Halloween Event Committee will meet next Wednesday. Hopefully we will have a safe Halloween.

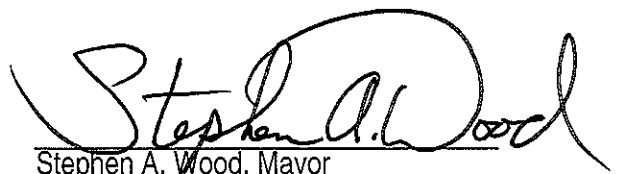
**Project Coordinator:** Lockridge asked everyone to keep sticks and rocks out of leaves for pick up. It tears up the equipment and they can't get out and pick up leaves. College Avenue has been milled and tomorrow it's scheduled to be resurfaced. However, rain is in the forecast so that will be done on the next good weather day. He talked to the state last week about the improvement to the intersection at Mt. Calvary Road and US 231. They are moving it about twelve feet to the east. That is scheduled to be done in 2016. They are also going to rebuild the Washington Street Bridge in August of 2016.

**Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater:** Murphy reported they will be busy picking up leaves and street resurfacing.

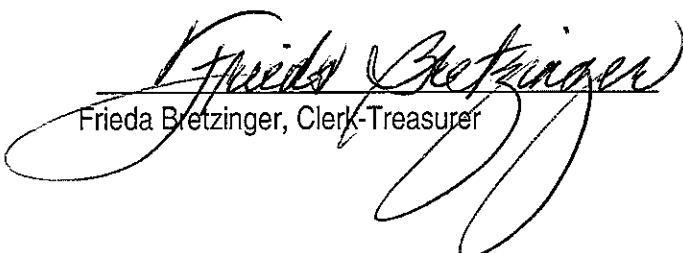
**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing. They've been busy with small claims. She's printing out payment coupons and that seems to be working well. She and Cercone will be attending a meeting on Thursday regarding the Energy Assistance Program.

**Weston Cemetery:** DeMoss had nothing except the leaves are starting to fall. In a week or two they will be turning the water off.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer