

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
October 27, 2014**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on October 27, 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 Bill Hollerman, Russ Overton, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr.; City Attorney Representative Jessica Arnold; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Utility Coordinator Donna Cochran; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Mike Murphy and Robert Blankenship with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Scott Barton, Cemetery Supt. Ron DeMoss and Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge were absent.

Also in attendance were: Stan Haines; Jean Fredrick; Bill Brinker; Bill Wornhoff; Stace Pickering with Consolidated Insurance; Robert Schenk; Mayor's Secretary Monica Maienbrook; Ed White; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO; Greg Whaley;.

The October 13, 2014 regular council minutes were presented and approved by majority with a motion by Hollerman, second by Overton. Barton was absent.

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

**Resolution 28-2014, Transfer of Funds:** Bretzinger said this resolution transfer consists of \$1,759.00 within General Fund and \$19,150.00 within the Public Safety LOIT Fund. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve Resolution 28-2014. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

— **Park Department Truck:** Effinger said they have a 1994 Chevy pickup that they are having problems with. He would like to get quotes for a good, used vehicle. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to allow Effinger to get quotes. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

— **New Vehicle Report:** Cochran said she is looking to replace the 1995 Chevy Suburban she drives. Requests for quotes to eight different companies were sent out and they are due back by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Haines said it was brought to his attention that quotes were sent to dealerships outside of town and he would like to see the town do business with local retailers. White said there was some misinformation in the minutes in that a new car would have a 50,000 mile warranty and a used car wouldn't. (What was actually reported in the October 13, 2014 meeting minutes were: "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.") What White was emphasizing was a service contract that would cover air conditioning, computers and all this stuff up to 100,000 miles. On a new unit the warranty is only up to 50,000 miles. You should be able to buy a used vehicle with between 15,000 low and 22,000 high miles and the difference in cost for the same unit would be about \$10,000. He added that we would get better service in town. Bretzinger asked White if the city were to purchase a used vehicle with, say 20,000 miles then the manufacturer's warranty is good up to 50,000. White said that was correct. Bretzinger said he was talking about an extended warranty and she's never seen the city purchase one. He said he could make one available to us or Russ could. He said if it's purchased in town then you don't have to send two guys to Fieldhouse or to Lafayette for service. Overton said he could sell an extended warranty and guessed he could on a commercial account but he wasn't sure. Watson said he wanted to understand that the city, as a business, could get an extended warranty. White said yes. Wood suggested making a motion or amending the previous motion to include used vehicles. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to amend the motion from last council meeting to include used vehicles with low mileage of 15,000 miles or less subject to an extended warranty. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

**Trunk or Treat:** Cochran said this year Trunk or Treat will be held at the Jasper County Fairgrounds. The community has been more than generous. At 6:30 the trunks will be judged and at 6:45 the costumes will be judged. She said between the Haunted House and Trunk or Treat they have taken in around \$7,000 in donations and grants. Haun said the Haunted House is back after twelve years. There are fourteen rooms and it will be open October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. It's \$5.00 per person.

— **Veteran's Day:** Wood announced the Veteran's Day celebration will be November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Weston Cemetery.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement:** Bretzinger told council that Barton did work for the City and there has to be a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement completed and approved by council, one filed with the County Clerk and one filed with the State Board of Accounts. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

**Cemetery Deed Request:** Bretzinger said she had a cemetery deed request for Truly Alliss. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

**Public Relations Fund Request:** Wood said the city has done a breakfast for the winning football team for the past several years. This year he would like to do the breakfast again for the football team, the soccer team who won sectional and the girls cross country team who also won sectional. Cochran said she anticipates 120 people including elected officials. Devon's will cater the breakfast for \$7.00 a plate. Since council chambers is too small for 120 people she talked to Ryan Musch at Embers and he graciously volunteered his building. This is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:** Cover thanked Murphy and the Street Department for its hard work picking up leaves. Watson, Bretzinger, Wood, Hollerman and Overton had nothing.

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

**Supt Reports:**

**Building Dept:** Haun said they are still working on his office.

**Electric Utility:** Cochran thanked everyone that's been on the Trunk or Treat committee and especially Phillips. Larson said the new LED lighting has been installed on Owen, Wood and Matheson Streets. Grow had nothing.

**Fire Dept:** Haun said the Redevelopment Commission will meet November 5 at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to pass a resolution to get reimbursed for expenditures for the new fire station. The aerial fire truck is back in service. The soil borings will be next Monday.

**Gas Dept:** Lockridge had nothing.

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

**Park Dept:** Effinger had nothing but added they are busy mulching leaves.

**Police Dept.:** Phillips sent council his quarterly report. Most of the glass repair has been done. There's some tinting left to do. All costs have been forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office.


**Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater:** Murphy reported they are busy picking up leaves, trash and recycling.

**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

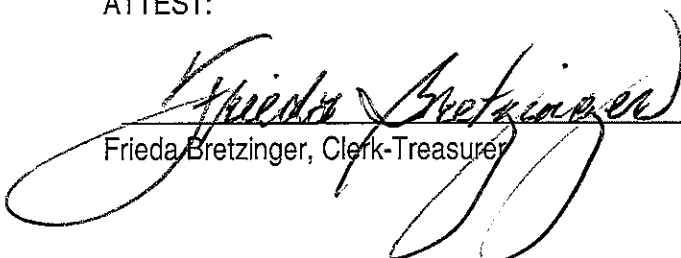
Whaley said he works with all department heads and people in Rensselaer don't know how lucky they are to have the kind of people Rensselaer has working for them. He has worked with other communities and he said our workers are by far more superior.

Kelly told council he sees the building on Merritt Street is full and he believes that is the first time in 4 ½ years.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer