

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
November 24, 2014**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on November 24, 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 Mike Riley; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Superintendent Ron DeMoss; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Mike Murphy; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge and Robert Blankenship with the Rensselaer Republican. Electric Utility Coordinator Donna Cochran was absent.

Also in attendance were: Tony Carroll; Bill Wornhoff; Stace Pickering with Consolidated Insurance; Robert Schenk; Jean Fredrick; Bill Brinker; Vince Sommers and Al Stong with Commonwealth Engineering; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO.

The November 10, 2014 regular council minutes were presented and unanimously approved with a motion by Barton, second by Overton.

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

**Resolution 32-2014, Transfer of Funds:** Bretzinger said this resolution transfer consists of \$13,050.00 within Public Works and Safety, \$32,400.00 within the Police Department, \$3,000.00 within the Sanitation Department, \$1,200.00 within Weston Cemetery, \$1,011.00 within the Park Department, \$13,089.17 within MVH Fund, \$12,785.60 within the EDIT Fund and \$600.00 within the Law Enforcement Continuing Education Fund. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve Resolution 32-2014. The motion passed unanimously.

**Wet Weather Treatment Plant Update:** Sommers said they are going to give council an update on the project and turned it over to Stong who is the project manager. He said they had the review and design meeting in early October. Everything is proceeding as planned and on budget. They identified the schedule moving forward. He provided drawings of the project. Final design is anticipated to be done late January. In February the plan will be submitted to IDEM. By April we should have our authorization to bid. Construction should start early summer and with a twelve month construction period, the project should be completed early summer of 2016. They've employed a landscape architect so that the neighborhood will still be appealing. There will be no smell as this is dealing with storm water.

**City Supply Bid Award:** Lockridge said the committee is recommending that Item #1, Unleaded Gasoline and Item #2, Diesel Fuel be awarded to Ceres Solutions and Item #3, Tire Repair be awarded to CTS Tire. The committee felt reliability is important and with last year's winter Ceres Solutions was there delivering fuel 100% of the time. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to award the supply bids per the committee's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Police Car:** Phillips said the committee met and reviewed quotes for a new police car. He said they can get a 2014 Dodge Charger from Thomas Dodge for \$24,717.00 and will give them a trade in of \$1,500.00 for the 2005 Chevy Impala police car making the purchase price \$23,217.00. There was a motion by Overton, second by Cover, to approve the recommendation of the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Deed Request:** Bretzinger read cemetery deed requests for Kenneth and Susan Troy, Larry and Lisa Ewen, and Joseph J Marko and Mary Jo Roth-Marko. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the requests. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Relations Fund Request for Christmas Parade:** Wood asked for \$350.00 from the Public Relations Fund to help pay for any supplies for the city float that will be in the Christmas parade. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:** Cover, Watson, Bretzinger, Barton, Hollerman and Overton had nothing. Wood said last year there was a bill before the legislature regarding changes in electric territories. The REMC's and Investor Owned Utilities are supporting the bill because there are 72 municipalities in the state of Indiana that own their own electric utility and when annexation occurs these municipalities take the electric service as well. The REMC's and IOU's claim the municipalities are stealing the service. The bill will be back next year so he asked for calls to legislators to oppose the bill.

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

**Supt Reports:**

**Building Dept:** Haun said they are wrapping up year-end things

**Electric Utility:** Larson said a limb fell on a line on Cullen Street and that caused a power outage. They are working on installing a service line at MacAllister's and have installed a service line at Blockbuster and the Noble Romans Pizza that is coming in with Blockbuster. They will be starting to put up Christmas lights tomorrow. Grow said they are getting ready for winter.

**Fire Dept:** Haun told Phillips the fire department will be waiting for the football team on the south side of the city Friday night to escort them through town.

**Gas Dept:** Lockridge said they are still trying to get service lines in and are working on MacAllister's.

**Legal Dept.:** Riley had nothing.

**Park Dept:** Effinger reported that they are working on Christmas decorations.

**Police Dept.:** Phillips said they made some changes to the lighting in the lobby. He asked that the police department be allowed to escort the football team to Indianapolis Friday for the state championship football game. There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to allow the escort. The motion passed unanimously.

**Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater:** Murphy said this Thursday's trash route will be Wednesday and Friday's trash route will be Monday. Lockridge said they are finishing up on leaves. There will be a wage hearing next Monday at the courthouse for the St. Gaspar Drive Project. He is working on easements for the I-65 water line. The chipper is scheduled next week for the brush pile.

**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

**Weston Cemetery:** DeMoss had nothing.

Kevin Kelly told council that the Town of Remington is making a big move with annexation.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer