

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
January 26, 2015**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on January 26, 2015 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 Supt. Ron DeMoss; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Robert Blankenship with the Rensselaer Republican. Electric Utility Coordinator Donna Cochran and Street Supt. Mike Murphy were absent.

Also in attendance were; Robert Schenk; Mayor's Secretary Monica Maienbrook; Rick Williams; John Johnson and Susan Gaines with Creekside Apartments; Mary Brown with Cornerstone Realty.

The January 12, 2015 regular council minutes were presented and approved unanimously with a motion by Overton, second by Barton.

November 10, 2014 Council Minutes: Wood said he was researching minutes regarding the sale of the Administration Building and in the November 10, 2014 minutes there was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to continue with the sale of the property but no vote was recorded. Bretzinger said a vote was unanimously in favor as confirmed by the tape so now council needs to amend the November 10th minutes to include the unanimous vote. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Overton, to amend the minutes of the November 10, 2014 council meeting to include the unanimous vote to continue with the sale of the Administration Building property. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Creekside Apartment Water Leak: The committee met to discuss the presentation made at the last meeting. Watson said the committee is recommending a 25% credit on the overage of the sewage bill which amounts to \$2,980.80. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to give Creekside Apartments a \$2,980.80 credit on sewage. Watson, Cover and Hollerman supported the motion while Barton and Overton opposed the motion. The motion passed by majority.

Ordinance 01-2015, Outstanding Warrants Returned to Original Funds: Bretzinger presented the ordinance to cancel checks that are over two years old as of December 31st of each year. These funds will be deposited into the original funds they were written on. There was a motion by Overton, second by Barton, to approve Ordinance 01-2015 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 02-2015, Establishing Provisions for Occupation of Permit Right-Of-Ways: Riley said Lockridge asked him about preparing an ordinance to monitor public utilities occupying city right-of-ways. This ordinance contains fees and fines so this ordinance will be published within thirty days after passage. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to approve Ordinance 02-2015 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Vacate Alley in Block 46 in Weston's Second Addition, City of Rensselaer: A legal description was provided by Turning Point Survey as requested at the last council meeting with regard to vacating the alley. Brown asked what is next; is an ordinance written? Riley said if council votes to vacate the alley then it goes into effect and the alley is declared vacated. That would go to the title company and they could issue a policy. After review of the legal description by Riley, there was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to vacate the alley. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Sale of Administration Building: Riley said the first step is to get two appraisals. The appraisals came in at \$130,000.00. He prepared an advertisement. Interested parties can come to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office and look at the appraisal and survey. Bidding will be open for thirty days. It is public knowledge who is bidding on the property and what their bid is. The city does not have to accept any bid. At the end of thirty days, the bidding will be closed. The bid will then be awarded or rejected. There will be an easement so that the city will have the use of the driveway and it has been included in the survey.

President of the Council: Cover said President of the Council is a one year appointment and that appointment needs to be done for 2015. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to retain Cover as Council President. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: The fire station, Haun said, is about 92% complete in the design phase. The tile is being moved. He is working with Julien, Collins and Riley to discuss bonds. A time table was forwarded to council. Lockridge said they've installed about 800 feet of 24" tile so far.

Administrative Comments:

Cover had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

Barton had nothing.

Hollerman thanked Phillips for the police report for 2014.

Overton asked if there will be stop lights installed on SR 114 for the fire station. Haun said it has been discussed. Wood said that we would have to request that from INDOT. Phillips said some of the other discussion was how to improve SR 114 as expansion happens such as the sidewalk discussed at the last meeting. Wood said he wrote a letter to County Commissioner Culp today regarding sharing the cost of the sidewalk since the sidewalk is going to the fairgrounds and Community Corrections; both county facilities. DeMoss mentioned that several years ago there was discussion about a bike path that was supposed to go to the fairgrounds. Overton also asked about the semi trailers parked by Pizza Hut. Lockridge said Hamstra's is working out of it to remodel Pizza Hut.

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

Supt Reports:

Building Dept: Haun told council he's been working on the alley vacation.

Electric Utility: Larson and Grow had nothing.

Fire Department: Haun reported he has been busy working on the ISO rating.

Gas Dept: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept: Effinger reported that the Park Board and Corporation will meet next Monday night at 6:00 p.m.

Police Dept.: Phillips said Coffee with a Cop will be tomorrow beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater: Lockridge told council that Clean-Up Week will be May 4-8 and will be on your trash route day. They've been busy with water main breaks and the Zeigler Tile.

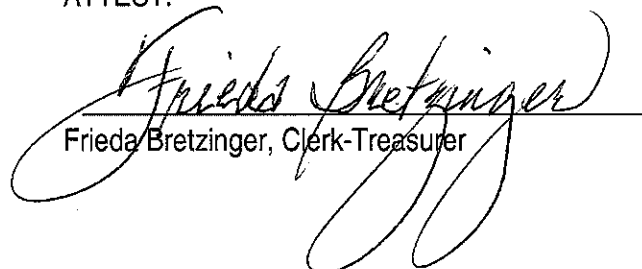
Utility Office: Smart had nothing but added that she's still working on quotes for the Utility Office remodel and will hopefully bring them to the next meeting.

Weston Cemetery: DeMoss had nothing.

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 6:30 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer