

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
February 9, 2015**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on February 23, 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; Street Supt. Mike Murphy; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Robert Blankenship with the Rensselaer Republican. Electric Utility Coordinator Donna Cochran was absent.

Also in attendance were; Shawn Cain with KIRPC; Mayor's Secretary Monica Maienbrook; Rick Williams; Brad Cozza with Jasper County Airport; Vince Sommers, Al Stong and Josh Harner with Commonwealth Engineers; Ryan King with Jasper County 911; Barb Lucas and Ryan Musch with Prairie Arts Council; Stace Pickering with C/I; Jim Miller.

The February 9, 2015 council minutes were presented and approved unanimously with a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Rock the Arts Festival: Barb Lucas and Ryan Musch with the Prairie Arts Council presented council with a request to receive the same support from the city as they did last year; that being electric and such. Musch said the festival will be held in Potawatomi Park on July 25th this year. There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

OCRA Grant Public Hearing: There was a motion by Barton, second by Overton, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Sommers started off by stating they have located three different sites for Water Well #8. All three sites are in the Bunkum Road area but they are focusing on Site #11. He said estimated costs for the Production Well-\$117,000.00, Well House-159,300.00, 12" Dip Raw Water Transmission Main-\$521,500.00. Adding in contingencies the project comes to a total of \$1,038,000.00. Barton mentioned that this property already had an irrigation system and asked if that would conflict with this well. Sommers said he wasn't aware of the irrigation system. Lockridge said he believed the irrigation well was taken out of the river. Barton asked if this property owner has been contacted. Lockridge said this particular landowner has not been contacted. Sommers said permits had to be obtained through environmental agencies, particularly DNR. We're looking at an allocation date of May 29th. Cover said this grant application is for Site #11. Will it also apply to Site #8 or #15? Sommers said we would have to re-apply. In order to be grant worthy we have to have an option on the property and the environmental completed and in the application. Bretzinger said there was a problem with the city's well in that area several years ago and it caused neighbors wells to run dry. The city ended up running water to those residents. Would that be the same here? Lockridge said if the city caused the problem then they would handle it. Cain said the reason they're starting this early is because the proposal is due. This site location is the most costly so we can back down from there. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to go ahead with the proposal for the grant. The motion passed by majority, with Barton opposing the motion. Riley then pointed out that the public hearing was not closed and the regular meeting opened before the vote was taken. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Well OCRA Grant: There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to go ahead with the proposal for the OCRA grant. The motion passed by majority, with Barton opposing the motion.

Resolution 03-2015, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger said the transfer is for \$154,700 within the EDIT Fund for the police group insurance. There was a motion by Watson, second by Barton, to approve Resolution 03-2015 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 04-2015, Approving Lease and Issuance of Authority Bonds: Riley explained that this resolution is another step in our bonding process to set out what needs to be done by the Redevelopment Authority and Commission. The Commission will present this to the Authority to lease and that allows us to bond for the fire station. This is financed from TIF Funds and this will not affect taxes in any way. If council passes this resolution then the Commission and Authority will meet tomorrow to sign the lease. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve Resolution 04-2015 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Renovation of 911 System: King was there to answer questions about the upgrade to the new 911 system. Contracts were signed in late January. The only thing changing are the desktops and servers. This is expected to be done every five to six years and we're going on six years. He said the only thing that could happen down the pipe is if statute on consolidation is re-written and the county would have to withdraw DeMotte as a position.

If equipment is paid for then his hope is to make Rensselaer a second position to handle more calls if necessary. Wood asked why DeMotte would be withdrawn and King said because their call load is a quarter to one-half of what Rensselaer's is. It also costs about four times as much to run a T1 line up to DeMotte. Wood asked what Rensselaer's obligation would be. King said there would be no financial obligation as this upgrade will be paid from the 911 taxes collected by the phone company on behalf of the county.

Final Plans on High Rate Treatment Plant: Stong said they reviewed the final plans with Jerry. Once the plans are finalized they will submit the permitting and notify USDA. Everything is on schedule. Bidding should be done in May and construction should start in June.

Synthesis Billing: Wood asked the Members of the Board of Works to approve an engineering claim for the fire station. Bretzinger said she got permission from the members before the meeting and will have it formally approved at the next board meeting. She was concerned that since the invoice was late getting to us she didn't want to wait until March 9th to pay it. Haun was instructed to tell Synthesis to get their bills in on time so they can be paid in a timely manner.

Jasper County Airport Update: Cozza provided council with an overview of the year 2014 with figures on takeoffs and landings, based aircraft and fuel sales along with annual economic impact. He also provided council and the mayor of its Capital Improvement Five Year Project. Even though he's seen a decline in jet fuel sales he has seen a rise in business and corporate jets fueling with them. Every Tuesday there's a gentleman that flies in to do pipeline inspections. He said the airport is a gateway, or entrance, to the county and city; an economic, business and tourist gateway.

Administrative Comments:

Cover asked when the weather breaks are they planning on fixing some of the potholes and Murphy said they were.

Watson had nothing.

Bretzinger told council that she sent the financial report to council for the Redevelopment Commission for 2014.

Wood asked permission from council to sign a tree contract. We have some ash trees that are diseased and there are some in the rights-of way that need to be removed. Barton wanted to know why we couldn't use our own forces. Can't we rotate a program to keep up with removal? Larson said they work on them every year and it's about a three year cycle to cover the entire city. There was a motion by Hollerman to allow the mayor to get two tree removal quotes. Barton wanted to make sure we received a list of trees that will be removed so we know what the scope of service is. Bretzinger asked if we were quoting this and Wood said yes and we always get two quotes. Watson asked Larson if there is a certain size that they can't handle and Larson said over anything over 100'. Their bucket trucks only go up 65'. The motion was seconded by Overton. The motion passed unanimously.

Barton asked who owned the road in front of the stone quarry and who is responsible to keep it in good repair. Wood said since they were running heavy trucks on the road they were maintaining it but since they closed he didn't know. Barton and Hollerman said there were huge potholes. Lockridge is to look into it.

Hollerman had nothing.

Overton had nothing.

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

Supt Reports:

Building Dept: Haun said the Redevelopment Commission and Authority will meet tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

Electric Utility: Larson and Grow had nothing.

Fire Department: Haun said bids for the fire station begin today.

Gas Department: Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept: Effinger said the park board and corporation will meet next Thursday night at 6:00 p.m.

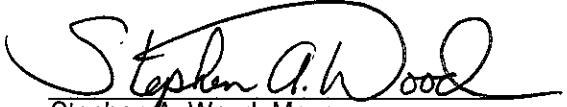
Police Dept.: Phillips had nothing.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater: Murphy said they've been working with some water main breaks. Lockridge reported Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. there is a meeting regarding the Washington Street bridge.

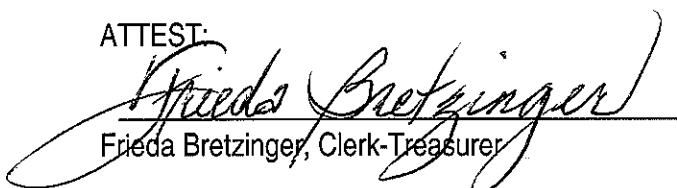
Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Weston Cemetery: DeMoss had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer