

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
March 23, 2015**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on March 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; City Attorney Representative Bob Monfort; 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 Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Mike Murphy; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Robert Blankenship with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Members George Cover and Ernest Watson, Jr; Electric Utility Coordinator Donna Cochran; and Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson were absent.

Also in attendance were; Trent Kilgus with D & K; Brad Cozza with the Jasper County Airport; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO; Buz Koehler; Rick Williams; Bill Wornhoff; Jim Miller; Don Pampel with IMI; Randy Denton; Jim Guidroz with Synthesis; Stace Pickering with C/I; Robert Schenk.

The March 9, 2015 council minutes were presented and approved by majority with a motion by Barton, second by Overton. Cover and Watson were not in attendance

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Tom Witt with Rensselaer Advanced Youth Soccer requested permission to use Brookside Park again this year for the soccer program and enter into another lease. He already received permission from the park board. There was a motion by Overton, second by Hollerman to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

Fire Station Bid Openings: Bids were opened for the new fire station and two bids were received. They were as follows:

	Base Bid	Alt #1	Alt #2	Alt #3	Alt #4
R. L. Sohol	\$6,000,000.00	(\$175,000.00)	(\$18,000.00)	Did Not Bid	\$40,000.00
Tower Contracting	\$4,298,000.00	(\$226,000.00)	(\$10,000.00)	(\$8,000.00)	Did Not Bid

The bids will be reviewed by the engineer and a recommendation will be given to council at the next meeting.

Conflict of interest Disclosure Statement: Since the Conflict of Interest was for Overton and he would have to abstain from the vote it was determined that there wouldn't be enough "Aye" votes to pass a motion so this was tabled.

Tree Removal Contract: Lockridge received two quotes to remove trees for the city this year. Wiseman Tree Service quoted \$12,700.00 which included all stumps ground. Practical Tree Service quoted \$12,200. Lockridge recommended using Practical Tree Service. He found three more trees that need to be removed and he will be getting quotes to remove those trees as well. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Overton, to go with Lockridge's recommendation. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

Public Relations Fund Request: Wood said Donna Cochran will be retiring on March 31st and he is planning a retirement party. He would like \$300 from Public Relations Fund for the party and a watch. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent. Lockridge asked for \$400 from Public Relations Fund for water for the week of Clean-Up Week and for lunch on Friday of that week to say thanks for all that help. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent. Lockridge also asked for \$285 to sponsor a golf team for the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Golf Outing on May 15th. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.

Administrative Comments:

Bretzinger had nothing.

Wood had nothing

Barton had nothing

Hollerman said he and Cover are working on a report but he's gone so it's not ready.

Overton had nothing

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

Supt Reports:

Electric Utility: Grow reported that last Friday they actually generated out on the new 69kV line.

Building Department: Haun said they are starting on the demolition of the old Johnny Rusk building..

Gas Department: Lockridge had nothing.

Park Dept: Effinger asked permission for he and Baltes to attend a mosquito control seminar on May 6th at St. John. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent.


Police Dept.: Phillips told council he is looking in to buying body cameras. They are looking to use confiscated money to purchase them and are also looking for grant funding.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater: Murphy said they are filling potholes. Lockridge said Atlas started on St. Gaspar Drive. CSX will be working on all railroad crossings in town beginning April 6th. It should take a week and a half to two weeks.

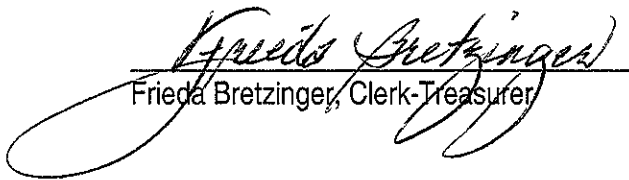
Utility Office: Smart said today is Day #1 on remodel project.

Weston Cemetery: DeMoss said today was supposed to be the first day of spring lean up but the snow stopped that.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Overton, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Cover and Watson absent and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer