

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
December 14, 2015**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on December 14, 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; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Manager of Operations Trace Bowles; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Asst. Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge. Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun and Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson were absent.

Also in attendance were: Greg Gill and Greg Roberts with St. Joseph's College; EMA Director Karen Wilson; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda DeMoss; Mayor's Secretary Monica Maienbrook; Judy Kanne; Stace Pickering with C/I; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO.

The November 23, 2015 council minutes were presented and approved unanimously with a motion by Barton and second by Hollerman.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: Karen Wilson, who is also the State Bicentennial Chair for Jasper County. She said the celebration began December 11, 2015 and will go through December 11, 2016. The torch relay will be coming through Jasper County the afternoon of October 11, 2016. She gave the route. The purpose of this is to promote Indiana and its citizens. There were suggestions to plant tulip and sycamore trees and displaying state and bicentennial flags. It was suggested to have hand-written notes or pictures to put in a time capsule. She asked if the city might want to create a committee to come up with ideas. She asked if she could come back in February. Kanne said she wants to encourage the bicentennial idea and the Historic Society is planning a timeline. They are also working with some ideas with the fair board.

Ordinance 14-2015, Establish Official Bonds and Coverage: Bretzinger said currently all city employees handling money is bonded through a blanket bond. As of January 1, the law will be changing and that if we want to continue with a blanket bond it has to be allowed by ordinance. Mr. Riley's office prepared the ordinance. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 14-2015. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 15-2015, Establish the Policy for Handling Returned or Dishonored Checks or Instruments from the Customer's Financial Institution to the City for Any Reason: Smart said this ordinance replaces Ordinance 21-2009. The previous ordinance states that if a customer issues two returned checks within a six month period the city would never take a check from them. This ordinance states that if a customer gave us two returned checks within a six month time frame, we will not accept a check from them for one year. Overton asked if we accept cash. Smart said we always take cash. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 32, 2015, Gas Tracker: Lockridge explained that this tracker reflects a 6¢ decrease. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 33-2015, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger said the transfer consists of transfers Public Works and Safety of \$5,500.00, Fire Department of \$26,232.40; Police Department of \$3,950.00, Sanitation Department of \$2,000 and Park Department of \$1,195.00 for a total General Fund transfer of \$38,877.40. The Street Department transfers total \$16,000. The EDIT Fund transfers total \$30,000.00 and Riverboat Distribution Fund transfers total \$30,000.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve Resolution 33-2015 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

JCEDO Contribution: Kelly said he was here to request the fall 2015 contribution from the city. He said he is always available to provide detailed information and talk confidentially about potential business. Recently they are pushing to get more street funding from the state. Wood said we only have \$3,250.00 for our fall contribution to JCEDO. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to give the \$3,250.00 contribution. Kelly also invited everyone to the JCEDO Christmas Party on December 16th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Permission to Purchase Police Server and Processor: Phillips checked with our IT person and in 2008 we started an in-house surveillance system which included monitoring city plants and property. Our DVR is not keeping up with our newer cameras. He asked to purchase a server from CDW-G for \$1,469.99 and a processor for \$1,052.83. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

Nepotism Forms for Direct Line Supervision and for Contracting with a Unit by Elected Officials: Wood asked for action by council to approve the nepotism forms that were signed by the mayor, clerk-treasurer and all five council members. There was a motion by Overton, second by Hollerman, to approve the forms. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: Barton said we had a committee to review the Utility Office Manager salary. Wood said as long as it's tabled, it's tabled. Barton feels the issue needs to be addressed either way. Cover said he and Hollerman were on the committee.

Administrative Comments: Cover told Daniels and Lockridge that they've done a great job on the leaves. Watson and Bretzinger had nothing. Wood said the swearing in ceremony will be held at the beginning of the December 28th council meeting. Barton asked if we were still patching pot holes. He said there's a hole at Grace and Van Rensselaer that needs to be on your list. Hollerman and Overton had nothing.

Public Relations Request: Wood asked for \$109.98 from the Public Relations Fund to purchase a coffee maker. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

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:

Electric Dept.: Bowles had nothing. Grow had nothing.

Gas Dept.: C. Lockridge asked everyone to complete surveys that were mailed to homes today.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Phillips told council he's hoping to get \$2,000 for a trade-in of the 2008 Charger.

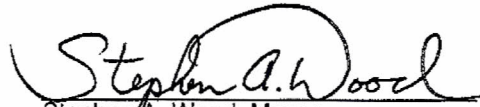
Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater: Daniels had nothing. J. Lockridge said Grimmer has the water main installed to 4 County Supply. They will be taking the next two weeks off.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing

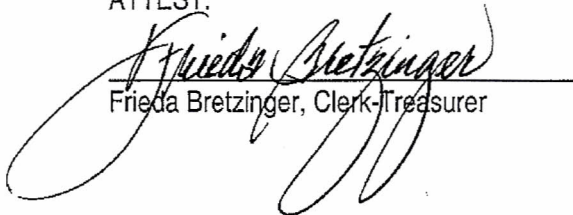
Weston Cemetery: DeMoss had nothing.

Greg Roberts told council that St. Joseph's College wants to play an active role in the Indiana Bicentennial Celebration.

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 6:35 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer