

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
December 27, 2016**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on December 27, 2016 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 Scott Barton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda DeMoss; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr.; City Attorney Representative Jacob Ahler; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Fire Chief and Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Police Sergeant Matt McAleer; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Asst. Street Supt. Andy Daniels; and Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Rick Odle; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge were absent.

Also in attendance were: Stace Pickering with C/I; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures.

The minutes of the December 12, 2016 council meeting were presented and approved by majority upon a motion from Barton and second by Watson. Odle was absent.

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

**Ordinance 25-2016, Electric Rate Ordinance:** Wood said the city needs to construct the Watt Substation and because of the substation along with revenue sufficient to meet the needs of the electric utility operating expenses, debt, debt reserve, etc. the we need to increase our rates. We are looking at about a 6.3% increase. Wood provided the first reading of the ordinance. After tonight's passage of the first reading there will be a public hearing and then there will be a second and third reading. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to pass the ordinance on first reading. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**Resolution 33-2016, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017 Electric Tracker:** Wood said the tracker is about a \$3.03 decrease for every 1,000 kWh and that is based on the average family residence. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**Resolution 34-2016 Transfer of Funds:** DeMoss said that there was a transfer of funds for the police department for \$35.00 in general fund, total amount of \$35.00 and a total MVH transfer of \$1,015.82. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve Resolution 34-2016. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent

**Grant for New Police Radio Console:** McAleer said the department was awarded a \$142,000 grant through the Indiana Criminal Justice System for a new radio console. They have not yet received the funds. He said the chief would like to proceed with the purchase and pay for it with police department budget. Wood said we have to put the money up and then be reimbursed. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**Cemetery Deed Requests:** DeMoss had two deed requests. The requests were from Dereck Isom and Sharon Lewis. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the cemetery deed requests. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Barton** thanked the employees for a wonderful year. He's had a lot of compliments.

**DeMoss** had nothing.

**Cover** wished the employees a Happy New Year. Kenny Culp Sr. wanted to let the public know Brad Alson went beyond the call of duty and helped him with a situation concerning a street light.

**Hollerman** had nothing.

**Watson** said great year.

**Wood** said Happy New Year.

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

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Building Dept.:** Haun had nothing.

**Electric Dept.:** Larson said they're installing a three phase and are doing inventory. Grow had nothing.

**Fire Dept.:** Haun had nothing.

**Legal Dept.:** Ahler had nothing.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger announced that the board and corporation will meet Monday night at 6:00 p.m. at the old Administration Building.

**Police Dept.:** McAleer had nothing.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels thanked council for the compliments.

**Weston Cemetery:** Cochran had nothing.

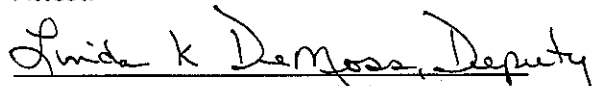
Schenk wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Wood said the old highway department building has been torn down. Mr. Dumas gave the city the house at 230 S. College Ave. He's still working on the Clark St. house.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Linda K. DeMoss, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer