

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
January 23, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on January 23, 2017 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 Rev. Jeff Cover with the First Presbyterian Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also in attendance were: Emily Albaugh with KIRPC, Philip Lopresto with ISO, Jeff Cover with First Presbyterian Church, Kwabena Adu-Sarkodie and Vince Summers with CommonWealth, Jim Miller; Stace Pickering with C/I; and Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures. Kevin Kelly with JCEDO came in at 6:20 p.m.

The minutes of the January 9, 2017 council meeting were presented and unanimously approved by a motion by Cover and second by Hollerman.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Public Hearing-Water Grant Application: There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Emily Albaugh introduced herself as being with the Kankakee Iroquois Regional Plan Commission and also a grant writer. The city has applied for a \$550,000.00 grant for a wastewater, drinking water program through the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs. The city will provide a local match, but it has been revised to \$975,100 and will be in the form of bonds. Vince Summers with CommonWealth said the new well would run down Sparling Avenue with a twelve inch water main and down Milroy. The city has obtained an easement to be able to cut through and come in the backside of the water treatment plant. There will be a new well, new well house, new sidewalks and a new water main all the way to the water treatment plant. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 1-2017 Salary Ordinance Amendment: Wood said this was to amend the Salary Ordinance. Electric Manager of Operations and Engineering: \$2,962.00 by weekly starting pay. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 01-2017. The motion passed by majority, with Barton voting nay.

Ordinance 2-2017, Fire Equipment Grant Fund: Haun said this is an ordinance creating a grant fund for the FEMA money to be receipted for payment of the air packs. The fire department got \$161,000.00 and the trustee has paid for the match and the grant writer. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve Ordinance 2-2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Bid Opening-Watt Substation Switchgear Building & Transformer-Phillip Lopresto: Lopresto and Riley opened the bids for the Watt Substations Switchgear and Transformer. The bids for the switchgear were as follows:

Myer's Control Power: \$332,408.00; Eaton Power: \$439,729.00 with an optional tech service of \$5,600.00; Power Grid Solutions: \$349,650.00.

The bids for the transformers were as follows:

Delta Star turned in two bids for two facilities. \$428,302.00 for the Virginia facility and \$418,208.00 for the Quebec facility; SPX Transformer Solutions: \$502,971.00; Howard Industries: \$408,203.00; Pennsylvania Transformer Technology: \$440,373.00.

There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to have the engineer review the bids and make a recommendation at the next council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed Requests: DeMoss said she had two cemetery deed requests. One was for Judith Smith and the second was for Stephen and Donna Wood. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman to approve the deed requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Request: Wood asked the council for permission to pay for funeral flowers for a long time employee out of the PR Fund. A motion was made by Barton, seconded by Watson, to pay for the flowers out of the PR Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the Use of the Old Fire Station: Wood said he has talked to John Julien with Umbaugh about the old fire station. What the city wants to do is get an architect on board. The architect would do a design build. The city would have a committee formed. The committee would consist of board of works, a tech review board, an engineer, an architect and someone from the city. Once the design build is done, they would put it out to local contractors. It is basically taking the shell of a building and remodeling it into office space. Wood felt it would be a good fit for the city. Chief Phillips said they have outgrown their space. The fire station building has lots of possibilities. Odle asked if a design build would cost less money compared to going out for bids. Wood said yes. Wood said it will be run through the Redevelopment Commission. Monies in TIF and some taxation money will be used. Barton asked what guarantees the problems wouldn't continue with the building. Haun said the weight was taken off of the floors. Odle said that there has been slurry put in under the floor. Phillips said they will open the floor up and look at it. Some of the drainage will have to be changed. Barton said the public was told that the building was no good and we need to be able to answer questions as to why the building is suitable for a police station. Cover said the foundation is good. There was a motion made by Cover, seconded by Odle, to move forward with the concept of changing the old fire station into the police department. The motion passed unanimously

Committee Reports: Odle said the Biddle Addition Committee met. The meeting consisted of Cover, Jerry Lockridge, Haun, Odle and Jim Shanley. The committee laid out the requirements and Shanley agreed and needs to get final authorization on numbers for drainage. Odle has typed up the minutes and everyone has signed and it is ready for the Plan Commission meeting on Tuesday night.

Administrative Comments: Barton had nothing. DeMoss had nothing. Cover had nothing. Hollerman had nothing. Odle had nothing. Watson had nothing. Wood had nothing.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve the claims. The motion passed unanimously. Barton asked how much longer the city plans to use Barbara Smith as a consultant. Lockridge said Smith would be signing the reports and helping with day to day operations just until the end of January.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said the plan commission is meeting on Tuesday night at 7p.m.

Electric Dept.: Miller had nothing. Larson said they are keeping busy cutting trees. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Carol Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Phillips had nothing.

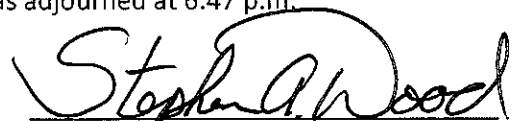
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels had nothing. Lockridge said they are taking care of yard waste and brush since the weather has been nice.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.


Weston Cemetery: Cochran wanted to thank everyone for the flowers, kind words, gifts and donations.

Schenk said the date on the notice on the door for the plan commission meeting is wrong. Haun said he would take care of it. Kevin Kelly said to watch for the Tourism report. Stace 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 6:47 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Linda K. DeMoss, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer