

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
February 13, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on February 13, 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. Kenin Smith with the Hope Community Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; 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: Stace Pickering with C/I; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Linda Comingore with Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce.

The minutes of the January 23, 2017 council meeting were presented and unanimously approved by a motion by Hollerman and second by Odle.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Ordinance 03-2017, Return Outstanding Checks to Original Funds: Bretzinger read an ordinance to return outstanding checks to the original funds. For On-Account the total outstanding checks were \$144.20, Electric Meter Deposit was \$4.00, and Gas Meter Deposit was \$5.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to approve Ordinance 03-2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 03-2017, Gas Tracker: Carol Lockridge said this reflects a 9¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve Resolution 03-2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Watt Substation Equipment Recommendation: Phil Lopresto with IMPA provided an analysis and recommendation from the transformer and switch gear bids for the Watt Substation. The transformer bid was recommended for award to Delta-Star Quebec for \$418,208.00. Howard Industries was the lowest bidder but failed to provide the required Financial Statement with its Bid Form 96. The switch gear bid was recommended for award to Powergrid for \$349,650.00. Myers Power Products was the lowest bidder but it failed to provide the required Financial Statement with its Bid Form 96. Wood said Miller was in contact with Lopresto and Lopresto will be here at the next meeting. There was no action.

Replace service weapons request: Phillips told the council that he is requesting permission to replace thirteen service weapons. He received two quotes. The first is from Sig Sauer and for thirteen 9MM's the cost is \$8,385.13. Trading in 12 9MM's we would get a trade-in value of \$4,500.00 bringing the cost down to \$3,885.13. The second quote is from Acme Sports and for thirteen 9MM's the cost is \$8,177.00. The trade in of 12 9MM's is \$4,380.00 bringing the cost to \$3,797.00. He recommended purchasing from Sig Sauer. Bretzinger said since Acme Sports is the lowest quote, what was the reason for going with the higher quote. Phillips said if they want to transfer the federal firearms licensing and if there're any questions he can go directly back to the factory. He never dealt with Acme Sports. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to accept the bid from Sig Sauer. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed Requests: Bretzinger read cemetery deed requests from Philip W. and Sharon K. Lewis, Jeffery P. and Nancy J. Smith, Victor and Annette Mattocks, Mark A. and Julie A. Hunsley. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments for 2017: Wood read the appointments for 2017. Robert Brenneman was appointed to the Redevelopment Commission to replace Scott Lucero, Steve Miller as the Industrial Development Representative, Clay Whaley to replace Dave Vohlken and Bruce Wood to a four year term replacing Deana George on the Board of Zoning Appeals, Ernest Watson Jr and Scott Barton are re-appointed to a one-year term to the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District, Jerry Lockridge appointed to a one year term as the Fire Department Grievance Representative, and Dave Sutton appointed to a one year term to the Alcohol Beverage Board. Cover opened the council nominate to the Redevelopment Commission. Currently Haun and Hollerman are serving as council appointments. Cover opened the floor to nominations. There was a motion by Odle, second by Barton, to reappoint Haun and Hollerman to the Redevelopment Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Cover said the next position opened up to nomination is council president for a one-year term. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to appoint Cover as president. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to close

nominations. The motion passed unanimously. The vote on the appointment of Cover as council president passed unanimously.

Public Relations Fund Request: Lockridge requested up to \$75.00 from Public Relations Fund for flowers for the death of an employee's parent. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

FMLA Request: There was a request for FMLA from an employee. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the FMLA request. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: Cochran said the Cemetery Committee is waiting on numbers.

Administrative Comments:

Barton had nothing.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman had nothing

Odle had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Wood has been in contact with INDOT concerning the sub-district property on ~~Maple~~ Street. They did Phase 1 which was an Environmental Impact Study. They said no action would be taken. Now they are doing Phase 2. This will consist of drilling and doing some water sampling. Originally they said they would give us the property but now they are talking about having an appraisal done and sell the property. The downtown bridge won't start until September 17th. The Mt. Calvary Road intersection has been moved back to 2018. Wood also said the closing of St. Joseph's College closing will have an impact on the city. Hollerman asked if the well site at St. Joseph's College is safe and Wood said it was. Barton said so we have a signed contract with St. Joe for the property. Wood said no he doesn't have anything for St. Joe. Wood said he thought he was talking about the other thing. Wood said we drilled a well but then had problems with the land. We had an appraisal done and thought \$20,000.00 was a good price for the land. St. Joe came back and hired it's own appraiser so it ends up we have to pay \$66,000.00 for that property. He said we signed a purchase agreement with them but we are now working within the OCRA guidelines to get a \$550,000.00 grant. About a week ago he received the mortgage release for St. Joe from Farm Credit.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun said the demolition of the apartment that burnt started Saturday. WTH mapping training is March 2-3. He will be out Friday and all of next week.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Miller had nothing. Larson and Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Haun

Gas Dept.: Carol Lockridge said their Open House is April 28th.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

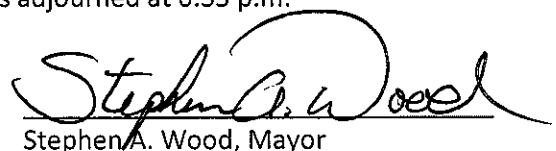
Police Dept.: Phillips said DeMotte and Jasper County departments are meeting the head of Teen Challenge on Thursday.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said last Friday they set the vortex unit with a crane. Lockridge said that project is 86% complete.

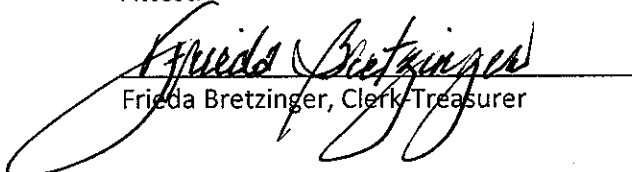
Utility Office: Smart still we are working through utility conversion.

Rensselaer Chamber said shred day will be Saturday, May 13th at the Kentland Bank parking lot.

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