

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 24, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 24, 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. Debbie Voss with the Burr Oak Mennonite 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; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge and Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson arrived after roll call.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I Insurance; Rev. Debbie Voss with the Burr Oak Mennonite Church; Niki Dick with IMPA.

The minutes of the April 10, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: There were none.

Ordinance 05-2017, City Credit Card Ordinance: Odle said the draft is a combination of other credit card ordinances, conversations with the State Board of Accounts to make sure everything they required was addressed and discussions with Wood and Riley. Bretzinger asked if the positions listed in the ordinance should match the positions listed in the salary ordinance such as Police Supervisor. Odle said he went to departments and asked who they wanted to have a card. He said Phillips gave him that title. Phillips said it is currently the sergeant but doesn't mean that's who it will be in two years. Bretzinger asked what paying the credit card outside the normal claims process meant. Odle said it meant that if a card holder was wanting to purchase something and he didn't have an account established with that company and it was, say, \$700.00, he could use the credit card and buy that while he's waiting to process whatever it takes to get that vendor to be a vendor for the city and maybe not going to use that vendor as an all-time vendor. Maybe it's a one-time thing. Maybe it's something he needed for the department and therefore he could buy it without setting up an account. Bretzinger said if we were charging to a credit card then we didn't need to set up the vendor because the payment would go to the credit card company. Odle said that would be used for spontaneous purchases. Barton said that each department head is to provide an activity log to the Board of Public Works each month so these are being paid without the claims process. Odle asked if that doesn't come before the board and Barton said no, that goes before council. Barton asked why that wasn't coming before the council. Riley said when you're dealing with a credit card you pay the bill because you don't want late fees. Barton said he's not questioning paying the bill in a timely fashion. He's questioning why it's going before the Board of Public Works and not the Council. Wood said the police and fire go before the Board of Works and utilities go before the Council. Bretzinger said she's not going to know what claims they want to go before the board and what claims go before council. Wood said to just change it to city council. Bretzinger said the only other thing is we have an ordinance that lists what can be paid in advance and that ordinance will need to be amended to add the credit card payment. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the ordinance with the change in Paragraph 12 from Board of Works to Council. The motion passed unanimously. Wood said Ordinance 04-01 reimburses travel expenses up to \$500.00 and he said just eliminate that. Bretzinger said if people are using personal credit cards they should still be able to be reimbursed for up to \$500.00 without waiting for the claims process. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to amend Ordinance 04-01 to add the city credit card payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 06-2017, Economic Development Rider Approval: Miller presented an ordinance to encourage large power qualifying non-residential customers to stimulate growth. Miller said this would require the large power customer to invest over \$1,000,000 and increase use by one megawatt over normal load. In the first twelve months there would be a 20% incentive credit that would be given to that customer and that incentive would come directly off of our IMPA bill. Barton questioned the reconnect charge of \$20.00 and after-hours reconnect charge of \$100.00 and does that cover our expenses for two linemen. Miller said that's part of the rate structure and needs to be addressed in the

near future to cover our increased wages and equipment use. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 06-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-2017, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger said this resolution is to transfer \$1,084.54 within the EDIT Fund and \$100,000.00 within the LOIT Special Distribution Fund. There was a motion by Odle, second by Barton, to approve Resolution 10-2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IMPA Update: Niki Dick with IMPA presented an informative video on IMPA. IMPA is a wholesale power provider to 61 cities and towns in Indiana and Ohio who own and operate the municipal electric distribution systems in their communities.

Request for New Job Classification within the Water, Sewage, Sanitation and Street Departments: Lockridge asked permission to create a new position called the Summer Light Machinery Operator. They are basically looking for someone retired with machine operator background so there's no training. They would be kept below 1,000 hours annually. Barton asked if he had the money in his budget and Lockridge said there's money available. Barton asked if this position has been budgeted and Lockridge said there's money available to fill the position. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed Requests: Bretzinger read deed requests for Scott and Charlene Hermanson; Merl, Martha, Marlene Branson; and Thomas and Barbara Coley. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Barton said on May 9th there's a BZA meeting for a variance to rezone the Administration Building. What will we do with the money from the sale of the building. Wood said Dumas wants to do a fundraiser and he thought he would donate it to the fundraiser. Barton would like to see the money go to the park department and use it as they need to use it instead of donating it to the fundraiser.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover said Wood sent out a letter about the INDOT property. He wanted to know why are we interested in the property. Wood said Rob Walker will be here at the May 8th meeting. Wood said they found heavy metals and benzene on the property but it's not to the point where it's illegal. The only problem would be if that leached out. Lockridge said they can always use the storage area. Barton asked if the old well site on Bunkum Road could be used for that and Lockridge said yes. Cover asked about the purchase of well land at St. Joseph's College. Wood said we won't get grant approval until June 1st.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle asked if we have a title policy on the Clark Street house. Riley said we had that deeded to us. Odle asked if we didn't get insurance on the property to know it was free and clear. Riley said he ran a judgment search.

Watson had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran said he asked council's permission to get quotes for a parking lot. He was approached by Soil and Water Conservation about doing a pervious concrete parking lot. It's porous concrete. That way water will drain back in to the water table. They have a grant available. Cover asked if it would freeze and Cochran and Lockridge said the bed has to be deeper than usual to prevent freezing.

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

Fire Dept.: Haun said the city wide yard sale is April 29th. The Boot Drive is also that day. He understood the police department is going to take over the old fire station and he wanted to know if the utilities could be switched over. Right now it's coming out of his budget and the fire department isn't using the building. Wood said not yet.

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

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger said the park board and corporation will be meeting next Monday night.

Police Dept.: Phillips thanked Watson and his staff for their help with the Little 500. April 25th at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow they will be opening the old fire station for prospective bidders.

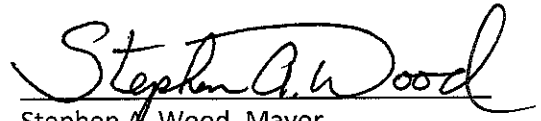
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said electronics day was Saturday and they collected 7.5 tons of electronics. The Grace Street project is moving along. About ¾ of the concrete is done and about ¾ of the sidewalks and curbs are done. They're supposed to be starting the paving in the next day or two. Lockridge said they are working on substantial completion on the H RTP. Last Friday they started putting up fencing. Clean-up week is next week. They are starting on Drexel Blvd today and are supposed to have the base coat done today and start on the surface tomorrow.

Utility Office: Smart said the Urban Forestry Council tree planting is this Friday at 4:00 p.m. at the primary school.


Wood said legislature passed Bill 1002, the road funding bill but he's not sure how they're going to fund the Crossroads Grant.

School Board appointment applications will be accepted until May 8th. We have two applications.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer