

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
June 26, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on June 26, 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 Council Member Scott Barton 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; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; 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. Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson was absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Shawn Cain with KIRPC; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda DeMoss; John Julien with Umbaugh; Phillip Lopresto with ISC; Stace Pickering with C/I.

The minutes of the June 12, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**KIRPC Agreement for Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant:** Shawn Cain presented an agreement between the city and KIRPC to contract with KIRPC to provide administrative and management services with respect to complete a Downtown Revitalization Plan with a \$40,000 OCRA grant. The fee for KIRPC's services is \$4,000.00. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

**Architect Agreement for Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant:** Cain also presented an architect's agreement between the city and Remenschneider Associates to prepare of a Downtown Revitalization Plan. Remenschneider's professional fees will not exceed \$40,450.00. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to enter into the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

**Update on Electric Utility Financing and Water Utility Project Financing:** John Julien said we've received an OCRA grant for the water well project. They will be doing an analysis this summer. The Water BANS expire July 1 and we have extended that for another six months. Cain said we should have the contract by July 14<sup>th</sup>. As long as we get construction bids before the end of the year we will be selling the bonds. The Watt Substation final bids came in last week so we will be able to prepare to sell bonds. There's a 2010 Electric Bond at \$4,000,000.00 and it is eligible for refunding so we can roll it over with this new 2017 bond issue. We should save about \$15,000 per year and that is after all costs. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to amend the bonds with the bond counsel. The motion passed unanimously. Julien figures we will be selling bonds around the end of July.

**Watt Substation Project:** Phillip Lopresto said IMPA has issued the purchase order for the equipment. IMPA retains ownership and will make any necessary repair or replacement. According to Riley the equipment is not profitable to IMPA or NIPSCO. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the payment of the equipment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Permission to Purchase a Street Sweeper:** Jerry Lockridge said we have a 1999 street sweeper that we would like to replace. We were going to piggyback off of another community but we are running into problems so he decided to go out for bids. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Permission to Use EDIT Funds for Resealing Around Cemetery Memorial and Main Drive of North Section:** Kevin Cochran received quotes from Kaufman Seal Coating to reseal areas of the north part of the cemetery. Kaufman quoted \$4,200 to reseal the main drive and \$1,900.00 to reseal around the memorial for a total of \$6,100.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the work. The motion passed unanimously.

**Permission to Get Quotes for an Excavator:** Kevin Cochran asked permission to get quotes for an excavator to dig graves. Right now he uses a backhoe so sometimes they have to remove monuments.

Lockridge also said they rent one several times a year. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Relations Fund Request:** Wood asked for \$150.00 from the Public Relations Fund to send flowers for the loss of an employee's father and an employee's mother-in-law. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**FMLA Request for City Employee:** There was a request for FMLA leave for up to twelve weeks for an employee. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the leave. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

Barton had nothing.

Bretzinger 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 Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the claims.

**Superintendents Reports:**

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

**Cemetery Dept.:** Cochran said he has funds available and would like to hire someone to work two days a week from now through the fall. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

**Gas Dept.:** Lockridge said they took delivery on the new tractor. They had to purchase a new welder and should take delivery of that tomorrow.

**Legal Dept.:** Riley had nothing.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger said he was trying to get things ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

**Police Dept.:** Phillips told council he updated the BPW on the new police station.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels had nothing. Lockridge said the BPW approved Change Order #5 for \$130,464.00. They are removing the well buildings and then will be closing the wells.

Wood said there is a group working on a fundraiser for the park department called Parks for People or People for Parks. Pickering said they are looking at a fundraiser for park projects such as walking trails, ball fields and dog parks.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer