

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
November 27, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on November 27, 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 Kenny Haun; Fire Chief Bob Graves; 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; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Street Supt. Andy Daniels was absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Kenny and Carla Anderson; Shannon Anderson and daughters Emily (and her boyfriend John) and Madison; Police Officers Matt Anderson, Matt McAleer, Brant Schmid, Dan White, Chris Cain, Chad Hammond, Mike Vanderhere, John Davis; and Police Dispatchers Dawn Steinke and Angie Fellmy.

The minutes of the November 13, 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.

**Chief of Police Announcement:** Wood announced we will have a new Police Chief on January 1, 2018. Phillips said Wood is appointing Matt Anderson to that position. He has been with the department for nineteen years. Anderson has a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Indiana State University majoring in Criminology.

**Water Well #8 Bid Award Recommendation:** Lockridge said the city received four bids for the project and those bids were reviewed by our committee and our engineering firm, Commonwealth Engineers. They are recommending that the project is awarded pending review and approval by the funding agency and the city attorney to LGS Plumbing for \$1,016,363.00. Riley said we finally have been approved to purchase two acres of land for the water well. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to award the project subject to approval to LGS Plumbing for \$1,016,363.00. The motion passed unanimously.

**2018 City Supply Bid Award:** Lockridge said the committee reviewed the bids and decided to award Item #1, Unleaded Gasoline and Item #2, Diesel Fuel to Ceres Solutions and Item #3, Basic Tire Repair to Wonderland Tire. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the committee's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Permission to Purchase Forklift:** Lockridge said she was looking at a used forklift but Councilman Odle talked to her about purchasing a new forklift and to also look in to lease-to-own. Watson asked if she had the money to pay for this and she said she did in Gas Reserves. She looked in to Republic National and Alta for the financing. Interest rate is 4.69%. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve the purchase of a new Hyster H60XT forklift from Alta for \$22,828.73 which includes a \$2,900.00 trade-in. The motion passed unanimously. A committee of Odle and Barton was formed to compare outright purchase to lease-to-own option.

**Waive Building Permit Fee for New Police Station:** Haun asked council to waive the building permit fee for the new police station. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to waive the building permit fee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Barton** had nothing.

**Bretzinger** had nothing.

**Cover** thanked the street department for keeping up with the leaves.

**Hollerman** thanked Phillips for his assistance and service.

**Odle** echoed Hollerman's sentiments.

Watson had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

**Claims Approval:** The claims were presented for payment. Lockridge said a claim is being pulled out of the docket. Bretzinger said the Commonwealth Engineering claim for \$6,007.36 is supposed to go before the Board of Works and not council. There was a motion by Watson, second by Barton, to approve the claims with the exception of the Commonwealth claim. The motion passed unanimously.

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Building Dept.:** Haun is working with Riley on a project west of town.

**Cemetery Dept.:** Cochran had nothing.

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

**Fire Dept.:** Graves had nothing.

**Gas Dept.:** Lockridge thanked council for the forklift.

**Legal Dept.:** Riley said he will miss Phillips.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger had nothing.

**Police Dept.:** Phillips thanked the mayor for his patience during this time of finding a new police chief. He thanked council for waiving the building permit fee. There was a tech review meeting last week.

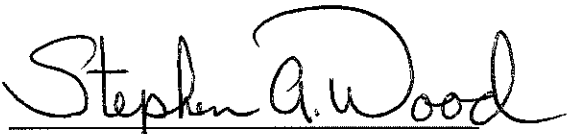
**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Lockridge said they're busy with leaves and catching up on the holiday routes.

**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

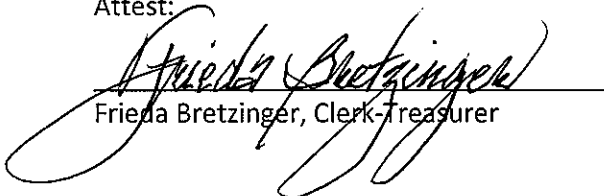
**Main Street:** Pickering said they've been working on the new bridge. Wood asked if Main Street would consider dedicating a fundraiser to new Christmas decorations.

**Schenk** asked when the Watt Substation will be completed. Miller said the punch list will be done this Friday and hopefully it will be in service on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer