

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
December 11, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on December 11, 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; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican.

Also in attendance were: Ron and Tina Cox; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Eric Galbreath with T V Cable; John Dalton and Tom Carroll with NITCO; Mike and Lincoln Manis.

The minutes of the November 27, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:** There were none. Wood announced that at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner Kevin Cochran was voted Citizen of the Year and Jeff Phillips was awarded the Meritorious Award.

**Resolution 31-2017, Transfer of Funds:** Bretzinger read the transfers for General Fund of \$110,064.00, MVH of \$6,650.00, Redevelopment Commission of \$300.00, Law Enforcement Continuing Education of \$300.00 and Public Safety LOIT of \$64,942.70. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 32-2017, Gas Tracker:** Lockridge presented the gas tracker and said it reflected an 8¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 33-2017, Providing Approval for the Assignment to FBN Indiana, Inc. of the Contract for Pole Rental and Fiber Lease:** Galbreath said the Filson family is getting out of the T V cable business. Nitco will be purchasing T V Cable. Riley said he has gone over the resolution. The contract signed in 2015 allows this. He recommended approving the resolution. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ten Year Award for Ron Cox:** Cochran presented the ten year award to Ron Cox. Cochran said what an asset he is to the city and the city is lucky to have him.

**Power Plant Crane Replacement:** Miller said the current crane was installed in 1939. During a recent inspection problems were discovered. Repair parts are no longer available. He has a quote from Konecranes, Inc. for \$26,586.33 for a new crane. Bretzinger said she noticed that on the quote that is said payment is due within 14 days of receiving the invoice and depending on when the council meeting falls it may be late. Miller said he would talk to him. Bretzinger said usually if a company is dealing with a municipality usually the company knows the requirements of state purchasing. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to purchase the crane for the light plant. The motion passed unanimously.

**INDOT Update:** Wood said the state is getting an appraisal on the old state highway property. Wood wants Riley to write letter stating we would only be interested in the property if the state did another Phase 1 Environmental Study.

**Invoice Payment for Water Bond Payment:** Wood said the sale of the water bonds will be December 14<sup>th</sup>. A request for invoices to be paid immediately after the sale and closing has been made by Umbaugh, Bose McKinney, and Mike Riley. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to pay the invoices after they are sold and closed. The motion passed unanimously.

**Forklift Purchase:** Odle said he hasn't had a chance to talk to Barton about this but has talked with Lockridge and Bretzinger. Republic National's quote on a three year lease was \$4,123.00 semi-annually and the interest rate was 4.69%. Bretzinger did some research and Indiana Bond Bank rate is 2.65% and the semi-annual payments are only \$3,900. Lockridge said they are delivering the forklift this week and Odle said he hoped they'd give us thirty days. Barton asked why we don't pay for it. Odle said he was looking at not having to put out the money at one time. Barton said if we're going to lease it we should go through the Indiana Bond Bank. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to lease the forklift through the Indiana Bond Bank. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Barton** thanked RC for his longevity and Phillips for service.

**Bretzinger** thanked Phillips for his service. She said when she was at the cemetery looking at the building she noticed how passionate Cochran, Cox and DeWees are about the cemetery and it's really neat.

**Cover** thanked Cox and Phillips for their years of service. He also said on behalf of council he wanted the department heads to pass their thanks to all of the city employees and wish them a Merry Christmas.

**Hollerman** had nothing.

**Odle** said he received a call from a resident about an issue with her neighbor. He thought it may need some sort of Housing Authority and some ordinance writing. This is in regard to hoarding. A committee of Haun, Odle, Riley and Cover was established.

**Watson** apologized to Phillips for 20 or 30 some years ago told him he should become a police officer. He also thanked Cox for his ten years of service.

**Wood** thanked Cox and Phillips for their service.

**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:**

**Building Dept.:** Haun said the judge gave the order to tear down Grandma's. He asked for about \$35,000.00 from Contractor Registration Fund to tear the building down. Riley will put a lien on the property. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to allow the request. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Electric Dept.:** Miller said they're still on schedule to energize Watt Substation on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Larson had nothing. Grow thanked council for the crane.

**Fire Dept.:** Graves thanked Cox for his service and congratulations to Phillips.

**Gas Dept.:** Lockridge thanked council for the forklift. She told Phillips to enjoy retirement.

**Legal Dept.:** Riley has enjoyed working with Phillips.

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

**Police Dept.:** Phillips thanked council for approving the transfer of funds. They are buying lockers, phones and computers for the new building. He also thanked the elected officials for making his job so easy.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels congratulated Cox and many more years and Phillips on his retirement. Lockridge said congratulations to Phillips and he will be missed.

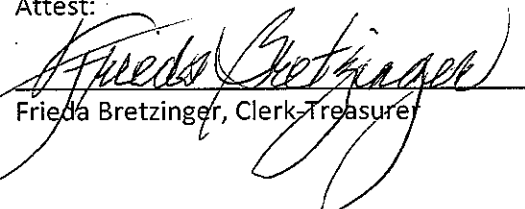
**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

Pickering said the Main Street steering committee is having its Downtown Revitalization meeting at Embers on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. This will be a public meeting. On behalf of Main Street he asked for \$250.00 from Public Relations to help with the catering costs. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

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 6:40 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer