

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

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on December 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, Rick Odle; George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Jacob Ahler; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Fire Chief Bob Graves; Police Lieutenant Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Bill Hollerman, Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge and Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge were absent.

Also in attendance were: Shannon, Emily, and Madison Anderson; John Smith, Kenny and Carla Anderson; Anna Baunach; Rich Baunach; Police Dispatcher Angie Fellmy; Cemetery Foreman Ron Cox; Police Dispatcher Erin Denton; Police Officer Mike VanderHere; Park Board President Mike Manis; Stace Pickering with C/I.

The minutes of the December 11, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

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

**Swearing in of New Police Chief:** Wood swore in new Police Chief Matt Anderson, effective January 1, 2018.

**Ordinance 20-2017, Appropriation Reduction:** Bretzinger presented Ordinance 20-2017, an Appropriation Reduction, to help balance the 2018 budget. The reductions were \$8,500.00 from Clerk-Treasurer, \$68,000.00 from PW&S, \$7,000.00 from Building, \$79,400.00 from Sanitation, and \$6,500.00 from Weston Cemetery totaling \$169,400.00 from General Fund. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to approve Ordinance 20-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Resolution 34-2017, Electric Tracker:** Miller said the 2018 1<sup>st</sup> quarter electric tracker is 0 but will actually represent a decrease in the rate of .007825. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Resolution 35-2017, Encumbrances:** Encumbrances for the Police Department were requested. They included from the Police Department payments to Jeff Phillips in the amount of \$13,247.65, Bradford Systems in the amount of \$24,420.00 and from Public Safety LOIT to Titan Construction in the amount of \$496,422.00. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Resolution 36-2017, Master Lease Purchase for Forklift for Gas Utility:** This resolution approves the loan documents and authorizes execution of required loan. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to approve Resolution 36-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Resolution 37-2017, Master Lease Purchase for Bucket Truck for Electric Utility:** This resolution approves the loan documents and authorizes execution of required loan. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve Resolution 37-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Request to Purchase Recycle Trailer:** Daniels requested permission to purchase a recycle trailer. Most of the funds will come from a recycling grant from Six County Solid Waste. He had a quote from Link Environmental for a 2018 Wilkens Recycling Trailer in the amount of \$61,979.50. The quote requested 20% down at time of order but that has been removed. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the purchase. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Request for Public Relations Fund:** Lockridge requested Public Relations Funds in the amount of \$28.60 to pay for donuts and coffee for a safety meeting. There was a motion by Odle, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Rensselaer Efforts to Keep Electric Rates Low:** Wood and Miller composed a letter letting the public know that the city is working its hardest to keep electric rates low. We've invested over \$2,000,000 in a new substation to help maintain service. The city completed work with IMPA to establish new costs for purchased power for 2018. The city expects to see a savings of about 5.25%. The city also refinanced current debt of about \$4,000,000.00 to a lower interest rate to save about \$330,000.00.

**Parks for People Campaign:** Wood asked council to approve using the proceeds of \$89,960.00 from the sale of the Administration Building for the Parks for People Campaign for park construction. The sale proceeds were receipted to the city's Future Development Fund. Council will approve invoices for projects and pay the invoices billed to the City of Rensselaer from the Future Development Fund up to the amount of \$89,960.00. Odle asked if we're just paying the invoices as they come before council or is council going to approve the projects before they're started. Odle thought they should present a project with a project estimate and the rest of council agreed. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to use the sale proceeds of \$89,960.00 for the parks. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**December Credit Card Activity Logs:** There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the activity logs for the monthly credit card charges. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Barton** congratulated Anderson and thanked employees for their work in the cold weather.

**Bretzinger** had nothing.

**Cover** said to tell the garbage collectors out in the brutal weather that he appreciates their hard work.

**Odle** feels when people see money being spent, then people will utilize the parks.

**Watson** is glad to see help with the parks. The use of our parks is sad.

**Wood** had nothing.

**Claims Approval:** The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the claims. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Building Dept.:** Haun said the train derailment could have been much worse.

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

**Electric Dept.:** Miller said energizing the Watt Substation has been moved back, from December 18<sup>th</sup> to January 14<sup>th</sup>. Larson had nothing. Grow had nothing but added the crane project delay saved over \$1,000.00.

**Fire Dept.:** Graves.

**Legal Dept.:** Ahler had nothing.

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


**Police Dept.:** Anderson said they are working on the building. The weather has caused several crashes and thanked fire and utility workers for help with the train derailment.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels congratulated Anderson on Police Chief and reminded people to let water run with the cold weather.

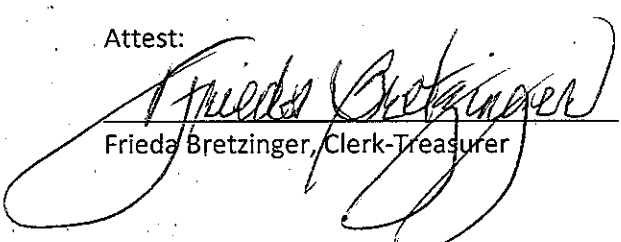
**Utility Office:** Smart is still looking at options on new equipment for the utility office. She also said the software company said we may be losing some of our zip code discounted rates.

Pickering reminded everyone about the public meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. for Downtown Planning Grant.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer