

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
January 22, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on January 22, 2018 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Council President George Cover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by invocation offered by Rev. Marcia Smith-Wood, Retired Presbyterian Pastor and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Bill Hollerman, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Jacob Ahler; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Fire Chief Bob Graves; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Mayor Stephen Wood; Council Members Scott Barton and Rick Odle; Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge was absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Stace Pickering with C/I; Eric Allison with CompTech 21; Heath Malone.

The minutes of the January 8, 2018 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, and second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent.

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

**Election of Council President:** There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson to retain current council president, George Cover. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent.

**Appointment to Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District Board of Directors:** Ernest Watson Jr. was appointed to the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District with Scott Barton as alternate.

**Consultant Retainer for the Electric Power Plant:** Keramida offered a proposal along with a new firm, B-Wise. Keramida's proposal was \$16,900.00 and the B-Wise contract proposal was \$15,000.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to allow the mayor to sign the contract with B-Wise. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent.

**Consulting and Engineering Agreement for Computer Services:** An agreement between the City and CompTech 21 was presented to council. This agreement is for twenty hours of service for computers, computer network, servers and technology at a cost of \$1,300.00 per month. Allison said he is offering his services as retainer. The agreement has an expectation of services. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to approve and allow the mayor to sign the agreement. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent.

**Credit Card Monthly Activity Log Approval:** There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to approve this month's activity log. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent.

**Committee Reports:** Smart said her committee for office equipment is recommending replacing a copier in her office. She obtained quotes and the committee is recommending the quote from Cardinal Office for a Ricoh printer for \$6,410.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to purchase the Ricoh copier from Cardinal Office. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent.

**Administrative Comments:**

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

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

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Cemetery Dept.:** Cochran had nothing

**Electric Dept.:** Larson said Watt Substation went on line January 18<sup>th</sup>. Grow said they are installing a crane at the light plant. The crane is powered by an extension cord. The company installing the new

crane can bring the power source to the crane for \$5,363.63 can bring the power source to the crane. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to approve the new power source installation. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent.

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

**Legal Dept.:** Ahler had nothings.

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

**Police Dept.:** Anderson said they started framing the walls and hanging drywall at the new police station remodel.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels said Grimmer Construction started the US 231 water project last Thursday.

**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Barton and Odle absent, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

---

George Cover, Council President

Attest:

---

Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer