

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
March 26, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on March 26, 2018 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 Rev. Marcia Smith-Wood 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; Fire Chief Bob Graves; Police Sergeant Matt McAleer; 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. Building Commissioner Kenny Haun was absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; John Julien with Umbaugh; Rev. Marcia Smith-Wood, Jeff Phillips.

The minutes of the March 12, 2018 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions:**

Jeff Phillips reported that the Jasper County Recovery House opened its doors today.

Steve Eastridge introduced himself as the new Executive Director for the Jasper County Economic Development Organization. He has worked the last two years for the City of Cincinnati, Ohio and before that he worked for the City of Michigan City, Indiana. He will be focusing on growth from within and less on big time job recruitment and project attraction. He will be focusing on business relationships within the county.

**Public Hearing: Proposed Gas Rates and Charges:** There was a motion by Cover second by Watson, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Wood explained that the public hearing is for the proposed gas rates. He asked for any comments citizens may have. There were none. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 07-2018, Gas Utility Rate Adjustment:** Wood said the first reading was held at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to pass Ordinance 07-2018. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 08-2018, Second Amended and Restarted Agreement and Declaration of Trust of the AIM Medical Trust:** Bretzinger told council this resolution is being submitted for all members of the trust to pass. The trust is performing better than originally anticipated and this resolution is an amendment to the original resolution and is to protect the investment of current members. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Deed Requests:** Bretzinger read cemetery deed requests from Sandra Canaday, and James and Leisa Donnelly. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the cemetery deed requests. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Building Committee:** Cochran asked permission to advertise for sealed bids for a new building. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to allow Cochran to get bids. The motion passed unanimously.

**Credit Card Activity Log:** This month's activity log was presented for approval. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the mayor to sign the activity logs. The motion passed unanimously.

**Tree List for Removal for 2018:** Wood presented a list of trees to remove this year. Barton asked if we are doing all sixty trees on the list. Wood said the guy will go out, look at the trees, and come back with a quote for removal. Wood said they are all diseased Ash trees and they are all in our right-of-way. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve to get quotes. The motion passed unanimously.

**USS Indiana:** Phillips said they want to have some representation for the commissioning of the submarine sometime in July. They want to build some awareness for the USS Indiana such as a gift basket related to your community and then a \$1,000.00 endowment to the USS Indiana to give for scholarships. Wood asked for \$250.00 from Public Relations Fund. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve the request. 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 Watson, second by Odle, to approve the claims. The motion passed unanimously.

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Cemetery Dept.:** Cochran had nothing

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

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

**Gas Dept.:** Lockridge had nothing.

**Legal Dept.:** Riley said his researcher regarding the publication of the ordinance from the last meeting was out today so he does not have an answer.

**Park Dept.:** Effinger reported next Monday the park board and corporation will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. He asked permission for him and Baltes to attend a mosquito seminar. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve attendance. The motion passed unanimously.

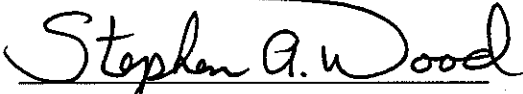
**Police Dept.:** McAleer announced they have cut the police applicants from seven to five. They will be scheduling a Board of Works meeting for interviews.

**Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.:** Daniels said they relined the Weston Street sewer. Lockridge said he received word from Walsh and Kelly that they will be starting work on Grace Street so it will be closed April 9<sup>th</sup> for about a month. The closure will be from the Grace Street bridge to College Avenue. They will also be working on the other twenty-six locations. The work on Well #8 is progressing.

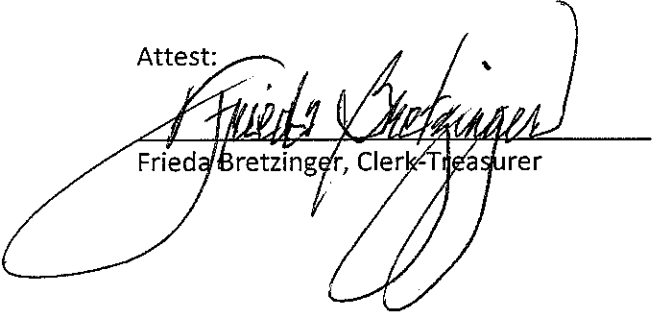
**Utility Office:** Smart had nothing.

Bob Schenk asked about an upcoming open house for the Downtown Revitalization Project. Wood said OCRA has to adopt the plan before we can move on.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer