

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 09, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 09, 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 Council Member Scott Barton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda DeMoss; 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; Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson was absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Martha Langley with Langley Insurance.

The March 29, 2018 council meeting minutes were presented and approved unanimously, with a motion by Barton and second by Hollerman.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Langley said she owns Langley Insurance Agency and has one parking spot in front of her business. To the north of her is what is known as Longs Gifts parking lot. To the south of her is an alley. Beyond the entrance to Longs Gifts parking lot there are three parking spots, across the street from Langley's business are six to seven parking spots and across the street is a city parking lot which is not always full. Langley said there are people who work uptown and park in front of her business and walk down the alley to work and leave their car in front of her business all day. Langley would like a two hour parking sign in front of her business. Cover said he believes every business should be able to have customer parking. Anderson said if they get a complaint, they will go out and try to address the situation. Cover felt the two hour parking sign was reasonable. Anderson said he would check on the ordinance. Wood said if a parking restrictions ordinance was in place, then they could put a two hour sign up. Langley also said there use to be a "no parking" sign south of the alley on Front Street, but it is no longer there. Anderson said he would check into it.

Resolution 09-2018-Gas Tracker-Carol Lockridge: Lockridge stated that Resolution 09-2018 was for April and would reflect a five cent decrease per hundred cubic feet. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve Resolution 09-2018 Gas Tracker. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-2018-Transfer of Funds-Linda DeMoss: DeMoss said Resolution 10-2018 was a transfer of funds for LOIT Special Distribution for \$80,000.00. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to adopt Resolution 10-2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Request-Jerry Lockridge & Carol Lockridge: Jerry Lockridge stated he was requesting \$400.00 to purchase donuts, lunch and pop for Friday during clean-up week. Clean-up week is May 7th-11th. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to allow \$400.00 from the Public Relations Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Carol Lockridge said she applied for a grant a couple weeks back from the IURC to help cover the cost of the open house this year. Lockridge said the grant was for \$2,000.00. Lockridge said she needs to ask for \$2,000.00 from the Public Relations to cover the costs till the grant comes through. Lockridge anticipates that the grant money will be in by the end of the month. Wood asked if DeMoss had checked to see if it could be placed back into Public Relations Fund. DeMoss was not able to check, but will be checking the next day. Wood said the city has to make the public aware of gas and how it is operated. It is put on as a community event. IURC made grant money available for this purpose. Lockridge said she just wants to make sure that the money can be put back into the Public Relations Fund. Lockridge said the open house is on May 4th from 11 to 2. There was a motion made by Cover to allow \$2,000.00 for the Gas Department Open House, subject to being replaced by the grant, second by Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Meeting Date Change-Mayor Wood: Wood said that Monday, May 28th is Memorial Day and he proposes the meeting of May 28th be changed to May 29th. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to change the meeting date to May 29th. The motion passed unanimously.

Tree Removal Quotes for 2018: Lockridge said he had received three quotes for 2018 tree removal and was recommending Practical Tree Service with a quote of \$36,000.00. This is to remove 60 trees. Wood said there is another tree at Milroy and Sparling that needs to be taken down. Barton asked if the money was available. Wood said it was coming out of EDIT. There was a motion made by Watson, second by Cover, to go with the recommendation of Practical Tree Service for tree removal of 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Wood said there is a 5K run. Anderson said it is a fundraiser for Autism Awareness. Anderson will check on the date. Clean-up week is May 7-11.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Administrative Comments: Cover had nothing. Watson said he might help with clean-up week. DeMoss had nothing. Barton had nothing. Hollerman had nothing. Odle had nothing.

Claims Approval: There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson to approve claims. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept.: Anderson gave an update on the police relocation project. Outside brick is completed and the insulation is done. They are working on electricity and drywall. Anderson said they are down to three on the hiring process and they had started with eighteen. The interviewing will be on April 23 before the Board of Public Works and Council meeting.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Miller stated the contractors are on site at the solar park and will start putting fencing in this week. Miller said IMPA is making changes to an ordinance at their meeting in May and then it will be brought before council. He will know by then when to set up a public meeting for that particular ordinance.

Grow had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Park Dept.: Spring Fling, which is the old Earth Day, is Saturday, April 14th from 9 to noon at Brookside Park at the Hall Shelter House.

Weston Cemetery: Cochran said on April 21 "Tunes on The Tarmac" will be held out at the airport from 5-7 to help raise money for the Child ID program. Cochran said they are still looking for volunteers to help with the Vietnam Wall. You can get a hold of Chris Woodcock at the Courthouse or Kevin Cochran if you are interested.

Fire Dept.: Graves had nothing.

Building Dept.: Haun said the Fireman's Fish Fry is May 4th and Haun has tickets if anyone is interested. Haun said the Mayor and Haun are taking a tour of the facility in Attica. If the Clerk-Treasurer or any of the council members would be interested in attending, please let Haun know as soon as possible.

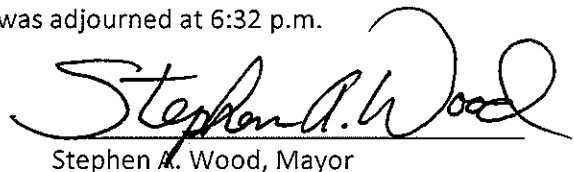
Gas Dept.: Carol Lockridge had nothing.

Street, Sanitation, Water, Wastewater Dept.: Daniels said Walsh & Kelly started on the 2018 street paving project. They are working on Grace Street now and will probably be there for a month. The City's Street Department and Jasper County REMC will be having their electronics day from eight to noon on Saturday, April 14th at the Street Department.

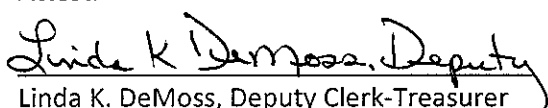
Jerry Lockridge stated that the well project is moving right along. It is about 22% completed. They are working on a bore on Sparling. They have the line installed from the plant to Sparling and Milroy. Things are progressing well. Once Walsh & Kelly finish milling on Grace Street, they plan on milling the other locations while putting hot mix on Grace Street.

Wood told Bob Schenk that OCRA has adopted the city's Downtown Revitalization Plan and the first public hearing will be at the May 14th meeting.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Barton, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Linda K. DeMoss, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer