

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 23, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 23, 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. Elizabeth Hartmann with the First Christian Church 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 Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Fire Chief Bob Graves; 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. Council Member Bill Hollerman, Building Commissioner Kenny Haun and Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson were absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; John Julien with Umbaugh; Chris Woodcock representing the Jasper County Veteran's Council; Jason and Aaron Shireley and Scarlett Craig; Rev. Elizabeth Hartmann with the First Christian Church, Barb Lucas and Brooke Kurtz with the Prairie Arts Council.

The minutes of the April 9, 2018 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Chris Woodcock representing the Jasper County Veteran's Council said there will be an escort ride similar to a parade that will begin at the fairgrounds, come down SR 114 and go through the city and end up at Brookside Park. He is making application to INDOT for the escort ride. He would like to get as much of the community out to watch the escort ride as possible. He is still in need of volunteers.

Ordinance 09-2018, Gas Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2018: Julien mentioned that the gas rates have not been increased in fourteen years. There is a second delivery point project that the city wants to do but the funds aren't available. This ordinance is for the issuance of \$3,435,000.00 for the gas project to provide a second delivery point into the city. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve Ordinance 09-2018 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to suspend the rules regarding first and second readings of the ordinance. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to adopt the ordinance. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Ordinance 08-2018, Repeal Net Metering Ordinance 12-2015: Miller said this ordinance was adopted in 2015 and no customer of the electric utility has opted to use the net metering tariff and council has decided that the ordinance is no longer necessary. IMPA's Board of Directors phased out net metering and are now doing net billing so they as an entity will purchase any excess power. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve Ordinance 08-2018 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Ordinance 06-2018, Establish Interconnection Standards: Miller said it has been determined that standards for interconnection of renewable generation facilities to the utility's grid in the form of solar, wind turbine, biomass, geothermal, or hydroelectric facilities need to be set to protect the general public. Any customer wanting to connect renewable generation facilities will submit an application and pay a \$100.00 application fee. The utility will inspect and approve or deny the application. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve Ordinance 06-2018 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent. Grow asked if there was anything in the ordinance regarding height requirements for wind turbines. Wood said there's no requirement for solar panels. Miller said any height requirements would come from Haun. Cover said Grow is talking about wind turbines, not solar panels. Wood said he didn't think we did. Cover said we may want to look at that. Lockridge said it might affect the noise ordinance. Wood told Riley to look in to it.

First Group Engineering Agreement: Lockridge said this agreement is for pavement field inspection of Rensselaer city streets and an MIP Planning document and maps for a total pavement management plan of \$14,100.00. This is a requirement of obtaining a Community Crossing Grant. There was a motion by

Watson, second by Odle, to approve the agreement. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Jason Shireley Ten Year Award: Effinger and Wood presented Shireley with a ten year plaque for working in the City of Rensselaer's Park Department.

National Lineman Appreciation Day: Wood read a proclamation from Governor Holcomb declaring April 18th as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Public Relations Request: Wood asked for up to \$90.00 from the Public Relations Fund for flowers sent to an employee who lost his mother-in-law. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Additional Tree Removal Request: Lockridge said there are two more trees that need to be removed. Wood said they are about to fall down. One is on Vine Street and the other is on Front Street and the tree remover quoted \$1,900.00 to remove the two trees. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to remove the two trees for \$1,900.00. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Barton said with the honoring of Shireley for ten years, he said he appreciates all employees.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover had nothing.

Odle had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

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

Prairie Arts Council Request: Barb Lucas and Brooke Kurtz were present to request the Rock the Arts Festival to be held July 28th at Potawatomi Park. There was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, to approve the use of Potawatomi Park for the Rock the Arts Festival. The motion passed by majority, with Hollerman absent.

Superintendents Reports:

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing

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

Fire Dept.: Graves said their fish dinner is May 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge said May 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. is the Public Awareness Open House.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

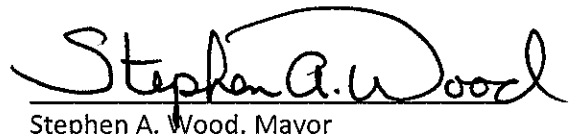
Park Dept.: Effinger said Saturday will be the Spring Fling from 900 a.m. to noon.

Police Dept.: Anderson said the drywall is mostly up and are putting in the windows.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said Practical Tree service is about 60% done. Grace Street is 80% done. They are paving Grace Street Monday and it should be opened the middle of next week. Lockridge said the contractor working on the water line have it done from the well site to Milroy Avenue. Barton asked about filling potholes on the road in front of the quarry. He was told it was on the list for repair this year.

Utility Office: Smart said on behalf of the Urban Forestry Council they have received the Tree City Plaque for 10 years. She has a Tree City flag she asked that the city fly. Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 27th at 4:00 p.m. at the Jasper County Historical Society.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Cover, 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