

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
JUNE 11, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on June 11, 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. Jeff Cover with the First Presbyterian Church 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 and George Cover; City Attorney Rep. Jacob Ahler; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner and Interim Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge and Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Ernest Watson Jr.; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow and Utility Office Manager Heather Smart were absent.

Also in attendance were: Randy Denton; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Jeff Cover with the First Presbyterian Church; Stace Pickering with Consolidated Insurance; Ryan Musch with Embers; Andrew Robarge with Commonwealth; Desie Zylstra and Max Zylstra.

The May 29, 2018 council meeting minutes were presented. There was a motion by Barton, second by Odle, to approve the minutes. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: Ryan Musch said they are having an event, Whiskey & Whiskers, to support the Jasper County Animal Shelter on July 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Musch asked for permission to close part of Front Street, from Stunt Dog Studio to three buildings down, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Musch also asked if they could extend the quiet hour from 11:00 p.m. to 11:15/11:30. This is on a Saturday. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to close off part of Front Street on July 21st. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent. Musch said he has purchased the old carriage house and was asking permission to put a dumpster in the parking lot to get all of the stuff out of that building. Lockridge said he would meet with Musch to see what he was talking about.

Ordinance 11-2018-Alarm Contract: Anderson said in 2013 the alarm contracts had a monthly fee of \$3.95 with a one-time activation fee of \$5.00. The cellular company has now raised it to \$5.95. They would like to raise the monthly fee to \$7.00 to cover the costs. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve Ordinance 11-2018. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Resolution 14-2018-Transfer of Funds: DeMoss said she had a Transfer of Funds for the Police Department in the amount of \$500.00. There was a motion made by Barton, second by Cover, to approve Resolution 14-2018, Transfer of Funds. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Resolution 15-2018-Gas Tracker: Lockridge said Resolution 15-2018 was for the gas tracker for the month of June and will reflect a 19.5¢ increase per hundred cubic feet. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to accept the Resolution 15-2018 Gas Tracker. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Resolution 16-2018-Rate Tracker for Electric Utility: Miller said this will establish the electric rate tracker for July, August and September, and reflects a .0068 decrease for the third quarter. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve Resolution 16-2018. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Safe Kid Halloween Event: Haun said the Safe Kid Committee would like to ask for approval to have their Halloween event on the Sunday before Halloween. It is hard to put on the event when people who are helping with the event get off late, plus there are usually ballgames going on Friday and Saturday nights. This year the fairground has a wedding on that Saturday, so they would like to do it on Sunday and see how this year goes. The committee is also asking for a \$250.00 donation towards this event, upon receipt of the materials for this event. Barton asked if this is for the Trick or Treat hours or just for this event. Haun said just for this event, and it would be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on October 28th. There was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent. There was a motion by Cover, second by Barton to give a \$250.00

donation from the Public Relations Fund for Trunk or Treat. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Contract with Amtrak: Wood said he was asking permission to be able to sign the contractual agreement for the Hoosier State Line, which the city pays a monthly fee of \$351.96 and the contract is from July 31, 2017 to June 30 2019. This comes out of the EDIT Funds. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to give Wood authorization to sign the contract with the rail division with INDOT. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Committee Reports: Odle said they were planting trees down by Jackson Funeral Home, Monnett and Potawatomi Park the next day.

Administrative Comments: Odle had nothing. Hollerman had nothing. Barton had nothing. Wood had nothing, DeMoss had nothing. Cover wants the superintendent's to tell their employees they are doing a great job. The city is running great.

Claims Approval: Barton said he had a question about a claim. Barton asked if the Electric Department was going to New Orleans. Miller said he had researched it and there are breakout sessions in the morning and general sessions in the afternoon. Barton asked if that didn't have to be approved by the utility board. Wood said he took the liberty of telling them they could go. It will be under a certain amount of money, so Wood took the administrative move to tell them they could go. Larson said they have done it before to further their education. Barton said he was all for furthering education, he just thought that it was to go before the utility board. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve claims. The motion passed by majority, with Watson Jr. absent.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept.: Anderson said the police department will be moving into the new building in six weeks.

Legal Dept.: Ahler had nothing.

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

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Weston Cemetery: Cochran had nothing.

Building Dept. & Fire Dept.: Haun said FEMA is out at the fire station meeting with citizens that were affected by the flood.

Gas Dept. Lockridge had nothing.

MVH/Water/Wastewater/Sanitation: Daniels had nothing.

Project Coordinator: Lockridge said the well project is 75% done. They have about 70% of the sidewalks done and should see a big improvement in the next few weeks.

Stace Pickering said The Parks for People Campaign is in the middle of their "50k and 50 days". They are on day eleven and are at \$18,500. There is a golf outing next Wednesday and the money goes towards the \$50,000 match.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Barton, second by Hollerman, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Watson absent, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

Linda K. DeMoss, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer