

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
October 24, 2016**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on October 24, 2016 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; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, Rick Odle, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr.; City Attorney Representative Mike Riley; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Fire Chief and Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Police Sergeant Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow; Asst. Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge and Caitlin Sievers with the Rensselaer Republican. Electric Manager of Operations Trace Bowles was absent.

Also in attendance were: Stace Pickering with C/I; Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Kevin Kelly with JCEDO.

The minutes of the October 10, 2016 council meeting were presented and unanimously approved upon a motion by Hollerman and second by Odle.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Resolution 27-2016 Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger said that this was a transfer of funds within General Fund for \$4,000.00 and MVH Fund of \$1,400.00. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve Resolution 27-2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Ratify Council Poll for Closing Costs for Staddon Field/Monnett Park: Wood polled council for permission to get a check for \$493.00 for closing costs for the property. The poll was done on October 12th and each voted yes. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to ratify the poll. The motion passed unanimously.

Quotes for Mower for Cemetery: Cochran had a quote from Claussen Equipment for a Grasshopper mower. The quote was for \$16,293.75 with a trade in allowance of \$5,581.75 making the cost of the mower \$10,712.00. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

2016 Police Squad Car: Phillips presented a quote to council for a 2016 Dodge Charger AWD. Thomas Dodge quoted a price of \$24,207.00 and a trade in allowance of \$1,200.00 for a 2007 Chevy Impala bringing the cost to \$23,007.00 and Phillips asked permission to purchase. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to purchase the squad car from Thomas Dodge. The motion passed unanimously.

Clark Street Property Purchase for the Park Department: Riley said the management company handling the 705 W. Clark Street property approached the city asking if they would be interested in purchasing the property. He thought there would be funds available through the Rex Blacker Trust. He spoke with the trustee, Ed Dumas, and he thought there could be. Riley told the management company that the city would be tearing it down. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to give Wood and Riley the authority to negotiate the cost for the property. The motion passed unanimously.

Replace Electric Utility Manager of Operations: Odle put some information together with the help of Bowles to come up with a salary range for the position. His recommendation was to offer a salary range of between \$75,000.00 and \$85,000.00. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve a salary offer of between \$75,000.00 and \$85,000.00 that has the experience of Mr. Bowles. Cover said he wanted the applicants narrowed down to two or three at which time those applicants would be reviewed by the council. Barton said it should be the utility board reviewing the applicants. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Comments:

Barton asked if there was a timeline to move Andy Daniels from Asst. Street Superintendent to Street Superintendent. Lockridge said it is being discussed.

Bretzinger had nothing.

Cover said Kelly is doing a good job on street resurfacing.

Hollerman had nothing.

Odle thanked the electric department for removing trees.

Watson had nothing.

Wood said the Haunted House and Trunk or Treat are coming up. There is a Solar Farm Open House on November 1.

Claims Approval: There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the claims for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Larson said they've been busy cutting down trees. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Haun said the fire department got its new rating from the ISO. Their rating went from a 6-9 to a 6-6 which is an improvement.

Gas Dept.: Carol Lockridge had nothing.

Legal Dept.: Riley had nothing.

Park Dept.: Effinger thanked the electric line department for cutting down trees.

Police Dept.: Phillips said they are getting ready for Halloween. Christopher Cain has been approved by the Indiana Police Pension. His swearing in will be November 7th at 3:30 p.m.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels reported that seventeen ADA sidewalk ramps have been installed as streets are being resurfaced. He added that 60-65% of the street resurfacing is complete. Lockridge said the Redevelopment Commission is adding Drexel Parkway to the street resurfacing list. After the last test the city's lead levels have dropped.

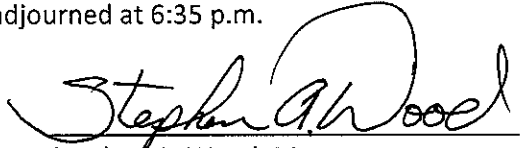
Utility Office: Smart told council the utility chart of accounts is being entered into Frey software.

Weston Cemetery: Cochran thanked council for the new mower and the electric line department for cutting down trees.

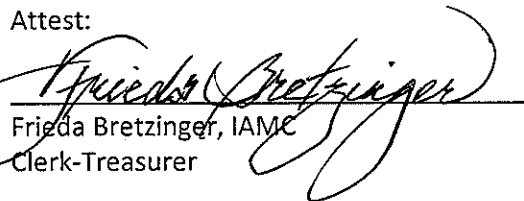
Kelly thanked the city for the Bicentennial Celebration. The annual report was released last month.

Pickering told council there is a ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow at 5:15 p.m. at Monnett Park.

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


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, IAMC
Clerk-Treasurer