

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
December 23, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on December 23, 2019 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 Elect Russ Overton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Scott Barton, Bill Hollerman, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner and Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Sergeant Dan White; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson. Absent were: Council Member Rick Odle; City Attorney Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Electric Plant Supt. Claude Grow.

Also in attendance were Council Elect Russ Overton; Council Elect Noelle Weishaar; Kris Overton; Phil Weishaar; Donna Wood; Andrea and Tori Watson; Christi Waldon; Carol Minter; Diane Hollerman; Nikki Melchi; Keith and Ellen Faker, Cannon Melchi; Owen Ott; Hampton Ott; Jeff and Kris Phillips; Stace Pickering with C/I.

The minutes of the December 9, 2019 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman and second by Cover to approve the minutes. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent..

Swearing In Of Elected Officials: Bretzinger performed the oaths of office for the mayor and council members for the upcoming term.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Resolution 30-2019, Transfer of Funds: Bretzinger read Resolution 30-2019. Transfers were \$398.78 within the Fire Department of General Fund. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Resolution 31-2019, Encumbrances: Bretzinger said the encumbrance requested by the Fire Chief was for \$8,000.00 to Hoosier Fire Equipment for repair to the aerial fire truck and the encumbrances requested by the Project Coordinator was for \$21,400.00 to Town and Country Paving for street work and \$5,225.00 to Kaufman Seal Coating for parking lot seal coating. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Resolution 31-2019 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Resolution 32-2019, Electric Tracker: Larson said the tracker reflects a \$1.40 decrease per 1,000 kWh. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Barton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Release of Retainage for Community Crossing Grant: Daniels reported that First Group has recommended payment of retainage to Town and Country Paving for the Community Crossings Grant. Retainage totals \$47,609.58. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve release of retainage. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Fire Department Billing Recommendation: Haun said he along with other city officials met with another fire department billing company. Premier Billing Services out of Westfield, IN operated similar to Emergency Services Billing Corp. (ESBC) but Premier will pursue legal action if no payment is made. Haun recommended signing with Premier. Cover said they follow this to court. There was a motion by Watson, second by Hollerman, to sign with Premier Services. There will need to be an ordinance for a new fund. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Cemetery Deed Request: Bretzinger read a deed request for Roger D. and Judith I. Cummings. There was a motion by Barton, second by Watson, to approve the deed request. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Elected Officials Certification on Nepotism and Contracts: The certifications were presented to all elected officials for signatures. The elected officials signed the certifications with the exception of Odle who was not present.

Credit Card Activity Log Approval: Wood asked council's permission to sign the Credit Card Activity Log. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the mayor signing the log. The motion passed by majority, with Odle absent.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Cover said to tell employees we appreciate them and Merry Christmas.

Watson said Happy Holidays.

Bretzinger wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Barton for his eight years of public service.

Wood said Happy Holidays and thanked Barton for his eight years of service.

Barton wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hollerman thanked everyone for another four years and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Larson had nothing. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Fire Dept.: Haun said he just got bad news. The fire truck failed its pump test. He will call after Christmas to get facts.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge congratulated the incoming council members and thanked the outgoing council members for their service. She said Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

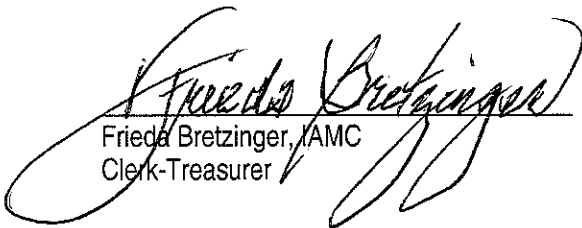
Police Dept.: White said our newest officer will be sworn in the beginning of next year. Officer Walker will be starting the academy the second week of January.

Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels congratulated everyone and thanked Barton for his service. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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 Odle absent, and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, AMC
Clerk-Treasurer