

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 22, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 22, 2024 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Jeffrey S. Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by invocation offered by Doug Harris and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Jeff Phillips; Clerk-Treasurer Shelby Keys; Council Members Russ Overton, Kevin Arnold, Noelle Weishaar, Jeff Rayburn, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Todd Sammons, Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Caretaker Tony Baltes, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge and Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge. Electric Supt. Brett Wilhite was absent. Building Commissioner Joshua Davis arrived after roll call.

Also in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican, Stace Pickering, Barbara Michal, and Garrett Welker.

The minutes of the April 8, 2024 regular council meeting were presented and approved upon a motion by Rayburn and second by Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Art in the Alley: Barbara Michal said Art in the Alley will be July 27th from 12:00-7:00pm and are hoping to utilize Filson Park. If Filson Park is unfinished, they will use Foundation Park as a backup. Phillips asked for a progress report on Filson Park. Pickering said the sidewalks will be in by that time. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to close half of Van Rensselaer Street between Kellner and the alley. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 10-2024, Establishing Sanitation Depreciation Fund: Black requested to set up a Sanitation Depreciation fund to set aside funds for future expenses. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to suspend rules and waive the second reading. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Weishaar, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 11-2024, Water Depreciation Fund Loan to Sanitation Depreciation Fund: Black said this would be to allow a loan of \$257,065.00 from the Water Depreciation fund to the Sanitation Depreciation fund. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Overton, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Saint Joseph's Annexation Road Acceptance: Black said a road acceptance is needed for County Road 600 West, County Road 700 South, East Daugherty Road and North Melville Street. This will add 2.39 miles of roads to the inventory. He is requesting approval for the Mayor to sign the acceptance letter. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Weishaar, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Watson abstaining.

Sanitation Accounting Change: Smart said sanitation was on a cash basis when it was part of taxation. Since it has become its own utility, the switch to accrual basis is needed to track accounts receivable. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Credit Card Statement: Phillips asked for council's permission to sign the credit card activity log. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to allow Phillips to sign the credit card activity log. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Request: Chief Anderson requested up to \$150.00 for potting soil and flowers outside of the police station. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Parks Dept. Building committee is still waiting on quotes from contractors.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said if there are any grants that anyone is looking to apply for, they need to inform Council, the Mayor, and Clerk-Treasurer.

Keys had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Rayburn had nothing.

Weishaar gave a reminder that School Board applications are still being accepted.

Overton had nothing.

Arnold said the city crews have been doing a great job at picking things up. Arnold asked for an update on the flag pole at City Hall. Wilhite will look into it.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented to council for approval. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Weishaar, to approve the claims. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said they have started tagging abandoned vehicles. That is in accordance with how the state classifies an abandoned vehicle.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart said the RUFC received the Tree City award for 2023. They have received this award from 2009-2023. Arbor Day is April 26th at 4:00pm and being held at Weston Cemetery.

Building Dept: Davis said the Plan Commission and BZA met. BZA granted a 90-day extension and 4 variances. The Plan Commission had a public hearing to amend the zoning map. Also, they would like to create a non-reverting fund. Currently working on sending letters out to properties for clean-up week. Accepting applications for the building administrative assistant position until Friday.

Fire Dept: Haun reminded everyone of the fish fry on Friday, May 3rd from 4:00-7:00pm. He will also have 2 firefighters graduating the academy.

Electric Dept: Wilhite said roof is finished. They will begin digging at the Court House this week.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said the hydrant flushing for spring is halfway done.

Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge said the sidewalks along the Court House are being removed. Upgrades at the Amtrak station will start the 1st week of May.

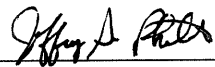
Gas Dept: C. Lockridge said the open house is this Friday from 11:00am-1:00pm.

Cemetery Dept: Baltes had nothing.

Park Dept: Effinger said they are assisting the RUFC with planting over the next month. The first ball tournament will be May 4th and 5th.

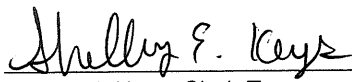
Stace Pickering with C/I Insurance asked for an update on the water tower and if it needed to be insured. J. Lockridge said it will be completed towards the end of summer.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer