

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
May 13, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on May 13, 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 an invocation offered by Debbie Voss 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, Building Commissioner Joshua Davis, Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Caretaker Tony Baltus, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart, Lead Line Foreman Garrett Welker, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge. Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge was absent. City Attorney Todd Sammons arrived after roll-call.

Also in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican, Ryan and Kelsey Ritter, Stace Pickering, Ruth Wooley, Caleb DeJong, Rein Bontreger, Sara DeYoung with JCEDO, Heath Malone, and Kelly Gardner with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water.

The minutes of the April 22, 2024 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Sewage Extension Request: Ruth Wooley asked for an extension to hook-up her home to the sewer. Her business is hooked up, but she is having difficulty getting her residence connected. Discussion was had. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to grant a 60-day extension from April 30th with the tap fee waived for the Wooley property. The motion passed unanimously.

Cylinders and Snacks Car Group: Rein Bontreger requested permission to close Front St. from Washington to Kellner on Thursday's from 5:00-7:30 beginning May 23rd and ending September 26th. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Apprenticeship Graduation: Kelly Gardner with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water acknowledged Ryan Ritter as graduating from the apprenticeship program.

Tax Abatement Compliance: Sara DeYoung, with Jasper County Economic Development Commission, stated that all CF-1 forms have been submitted, with a recommendation to approve all of them. She did state that Filtration Parts is no longer in business and will not receive a tax abatement going further.

There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve Con Agra real estate. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Arnold, to approve Con Agra personal property. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve IMPA personal property. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve Rensselaer 2 Solar Array personal property. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Arnold, second by Watson, to approve Proform (National Gypsum) personal property. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Arnold, second by Watson, to approve Proform (National Gypsum) real estate. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve FSSC LLC personal property. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve FSSC LLC real estate. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve American Meltblown real estate. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve Richard N. Reese (Genova) real estate. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 12-2024, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the General Fund for \$6,500.00 and PS LIT for \$11,000.00. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Burial Rights Request: Keys read a burial rights request for Michael Jancek. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Brick Streets Redevelopment Claim: J. Lockridge said this claim for \$208,424.02 is the second pay request for the brick streets project. This covers sidewalk and brick removal, electric manhole installation storm inlets, storm piping, sewer connection and water main work. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the claim. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 11-2024, April Gas Tracker: Smart stated the gas tracker reflects a 33¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Rayburn, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Memorial Day Meeting Date Change: Phillips said he would like to change the next meeting date to Tuesday, May 28th. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the change. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips gave thanks to the line department for working on Saturday to accommodate the Court House and the removal of the electric lines. Still moving forward on the water main extension to I-65.

Keys had nothing.

Watson said great job on clean-up week.

Rayburn said he had a few citizens express their thanks for clean-up week.

Weishaar thanked the Street Dept. She said 4 applications were turned in for the school board appointment.

Overton said everyone did a great job.

Arnold said he helped out Friday morning with clean-up week and was impressed.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson had nothing.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis said that floor damage prevention ordinance has been accepted. There will be no plan commission or BZA meeting this month.

Fire Dept: Haun said firefighter graduation is June 7th in Valparaiso. Construction of the tower has been pushed back 10-12 weeks.

Electric Dept: Welker had nothing.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said totals for clean-up week were 22 employees per day, 55.4 tons of yard waste, 11 gaylords of electronics, 98 tires, 31.7 tons of brush, 10 loads of metal and 218.4 tons of trash.

Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge had nothing.

Gas Dept: C. Lockridge was absent.

Cemetery Dept: Baltus said he is preparing for Memorial Day.

Park Dept: Effinger said there will be ball tournaments for the next two weekends.

Meter Dept: Malone said there are currently 1,500 residential electric meters and 2,000 water meters online. The meter department is seeing benefits of the AMI system, as it caught a water leak and an electric meter that was pulled without permission.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:

Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer