

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
June 10, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on June 10, 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 Lisa Ulrich 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; Building Commissioner Josh Davis, Park Supt. and Interim Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger, 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, and Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge.

Also in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican, Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Sara DeYoung with JCEDO, Ryan Preston, Heath Malone and Fran Valade.

The minutes of the May 28, 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: Fran Valade discouraged the idea of painting the water tower and said she would like to see it remain white.

Water Tower Painting Approval: Phillips said the water tower painting would increase tourism within the City and County. DeYoung said tourism will utilize hotel tax to pay for the painting. DeYoung said they are still trying to find funds to cover the clear coat and a lift. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the water tower design. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 12-2024, Establishing Redevelopment Non-Reverting Fund, 1st Reading: Arnold said this is the 2nd reading of the ordinance. There have been no changes to what was presented previously. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 13-2024, Establishing Plan Commission Non-Reverting Fund, 1st Reading: Arnold said this is the 2nd reading of the ordinance. The Plan Commission can set their own fees, but it does have to be approved by council. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 15-2024, Establishing I-65 Water & Sewer Extension Capital Project Fund: Phillips said this fund will be used to track the expenses for the water and sewer project with the County. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Rayburn, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 13-2024, Gas Tracker: C. Lockridge stated the gas tracker reflects a 16¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-2024, Forgiving Under Billed Charges: Phillips said the city is undergoing an audit and this resolution documents what happened with the base rate and software changes. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Brick Street Pay App #3: J. Lockridge said this claim for \$295,863.95 is the third pay request for the project. This request covers curb and sidewalk removal, pipe/manhole/catch basin removal and install, traffic control and finishing of water main work. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Weishaar, to approve the claim. The motion passed unanimously.

Brick Street Commonwealth Invoice: J. Lockridge said this invoice for \$32,448.25 covers a project representative on site at all times, which is a requirement from EDA. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Rayburn, to approve the claim. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Request: Phillips requested \$2,000.00 from the PR fund for an employee picnic. The picnic will be Friday, July 26th at Lake Banet. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Phillips said concrete floors will be poured this week in the light plant. Arnold asked what the cost is. J. Lockridge said it will be around \$43,000.00.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips had nothing.

Keys had nothing.

Watson said he went to the Electric Dept. last week to see the new AMI software and was impressed.

Rayburn had nothing.

Weishaar thanked Effinger for getting the pool open. Weishaar said she would like to get a long-term plan together for the pool.

Overton had nothing.

Arnold said he researched elected vs. appointed school boards and will share that information with council.

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 said he has been communicating with superintendents.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis said the quote for a new flagpole is \$8,178.30. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the quote. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Dept: Haun had nothing.

Electric Dept: Welker said he wanted to recognize his guys for all their hard work.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said the fire station main has passed all tests and is active. The fair would like to use a garbage truck during fair week and also requested the use of two dumpsters and totes. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Black requested to go out for bid to replace the recycling truck and said funds are available. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to allow Black to get bids. The motion passed unanimously.

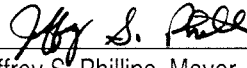
Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge said curbs for the brick street should be done by the end of the week and hopefully sidewalks will be done next week.

Gas Dept: C. Lockridge had nothing.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger said there is a burial happening tomorrow.

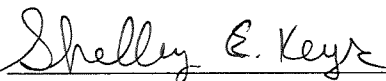
Park Dept: Effinger said the last two tournaments scheduled at Blacker Fields will not happen. The orange fence will be coming down.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer