

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
September 23, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on September 23, 2024 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Council President Noelle Weishaar 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: 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, Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart, Lead Line Foreman Garrett Welker, Park Supt Heather Hall, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge, and Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge. Mayor Jeff Phillips was absent.

Also in attendance were: Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Heath Malone, Caleb DeJong, Stace Pickering and Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican.

The minutes of the September 9, 2024 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Public Hearing for Ordinance 19-2024, 2025 City Budget: There was a motion by Arnold, second by Overton, to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Keys read the proposed 2025 Budget:

Fund Name	Proposed Budget	Proposed Tax Levy	Proposed Tax Rate
CASINO/RIVERBOAT	\$31,990	\$0	0.0000
GENERAL	\$4,347,835	\$1,588,472	0.6314
DEBT PAYMENT	\$110,794	\$101,234	0.0402
LOCAL INCOME TAX	\$479,710	\$0	0.0000
LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$71,580	\$0	0.0000
MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	\$710,993	\$230,000	0.0914
CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$10,000	\$0	0.0000
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMP	\$50,000	\$0	0.0000
CUMULATIVE CAP DEV.	\$245,146	\$126,389	0.0427
EDIT	\$327,500	\$0	0.0000
REDEVELOPMENT - GENERAL	\$31,000	\$10,000	0.0040
	Total: \$6,416,548	Total: \$2,056,095	Total: 0.8097

Keys asked if there were any comments or questions. Arnold asked how the budget compares to 2024. Keys said the 2024 General Fund budget was \$4,116,198.00. There were no other comments. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 22-2024, 3rd Quarter Electric Tracker: Welker said this tracker reflects a \$1.42 increase per 1,000 kWh consumed. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 23-2024, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the General Fund for a total of \$23,950.00. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

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

American Legion Request: Weishaar read a letter from the American Legion requesting a contribution for their annual Thanksgiving meal. There was a motion by Overton, second by Arnold, to contribute \$600.00 to the American Legion in Rensselaer. There motion passed unanimously.

Brick Streets Pay App #6: J. Lockridge said this pay request is for \$326,430.54 and covers black topping, geogrid mats, stone base under bricks, ramps, permeable pavers and curbs, sign posts and traffic control. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the pay request. The motion passed unanimously.

CCMG First Group Contract: J. Lockridge said this contract is for the 2024 Community Crossing Matching Grant and would include work regarding preparing bid documentation, construction inspection and ADA compliance. The contract is not to exceed \$107,000.00. This contract will be paid for out of city funds and not covered by the grant. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to allow the Mayor to sign the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Amtrak First Group Contract: J. Lockridge said this contract in the amount of \$24,500.00 is for the Amtrak parking lot and would include work regarding design and permitting, surveying, bidding, construction management. Arnold asked if the construction can be managed in-house. J. Lockridge said they will ensure everything is ADA compliant, and if we do not need them on site, we won't be billed. Arnold said he is not in favor of paving it as it will just become another road the city has to maintain. J. Lockridge commented that the gravel can be hard to maintain and it is not a

great look once you get off the train. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to allow the Mayor to sign the contract. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold opposing.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips was absent.

Keys had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Weishaar said she had a business owner within the College Square area complaining about landscaping that has not been maintained. Davis said he would look into it.

Rayburn had nothing.

Arnold questioned the progression of livestreaming meetings and redistricting. Keys said the equipment for livestreaming has been ordered and the city is working on redistricting.

Overton had nothing.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said he will be presenting an updated golf cart ordinance. He has not received any complaints, but the ordinance is very open-ended and he would like a bit more restrictions.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis said the Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation for both of council's request that they sent to the commission. Notices for the railroad public hearing have been sent out. There will be Redevelopment Commission meetings on September 30th and October 7th.

Fire Dept: Haun said he has an invoice for Phegley Construction in the amount of \$9,240.00 for concrete work that has been completed at the fire training tower. He asked council for permission to approve the claim now and a check to be cut tomorrow. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the claim to Phegley Construction for \$9,240.00. The motion passed unanimously. Haun said he recently attended a training for electric vehicles and provided information regarding what he learned.

Electric Dept: Welker said the lineman rodeo is this weekend in Lawrenceburg.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said the household hazardous waste event is this Saturday from 8-12.

Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge said the I-65 water/sewer extension plans are 22% complete and anticipate the project to be bid out by year-end.

Gas Dept: C. Lockridge had nothing.

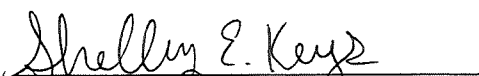
Cemetery Dept: Effinger said the Memories Alive walk had a little less than 100 people in attendance for both showings.

Park Dept: Hall said the scarecrow trail is on display, the final tournament at Black Fields will be October 6th, and Pet Vets will be coming to Potawatomi Park for a vaccination clinic and dog park registration day.

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


Noelle Weishaar, Council President

Attest:


Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer