

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
November 12, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on November 12, 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 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, 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 were absent.

Also in attendance were: Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Karen Stanley, Ron Sheffler, Richard Green, Oti Wood, Dave Litner, Stace Pickering, Caleb DeJong, Harley Tomlinson and Nicole Grzybowski with Baker Tilly.

The minutes of the October 28, 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.

Introduction of Ord 27-2024, Rate Ordinance and Ord 26-2024, Bond Ordinance for Sewer Project: Nicole Grzybowski with Baker Tilly discussed the rate & bond ordinances regarding the Phase II B WWTP Improvements & Phase III Sewer Lining & Interceptor upsizing. The WWTP Improvements, Phase IIB, has an estimated cost of \$19,000,000. This phase of the LTCP is for WWTP improvements, implementing a new treatment technique, adding additional clarifier capacity & rehabilitation of various components of the existing WWTP. The Sewer Lining & Interceptor upsizing, Phase III has an estimated cost of \$9,000,000. This phase of the LTCP is for lining of the 24" Melville St. sewer from Merritt St. to the Melville St. bridge as well as upsizing of the interceptors along Milroy Ave. Rate increases will be phased in over 3 years, starting January 1, 2025 with a \$17/month increase, January 1, 2026 will have another \$17/month increase & January 1, 2027 will see a \$12/month increase. These increases are based off of the 4,000 gal/month average user.

There was a motion by Rayburn, Second by Watson, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve Ordinance 26-2024. The motion passed unanimously.

The State of the Urban Forest: Oti Wood, with the Rensselaer Urban Forestry Council, gave an update on the state of the urban forest in Rensselaer.

Ordinance 25-2024, Closing of Scott St. Railroad Crossing: Phillips said this was the second reading of the ordinance. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold voting nay.

Resolution 28-2024, Gas Tracker: Smart stated the gas tracker reflects a 2¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion made by Arnold, second by Overton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 29-2024, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the General Fund for \$3,003.35. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

City Supply Bid Award: Keys said the committee met and reviewed the bids. The committee is suggesting awarding the 2025 city supply bid to Keystone Cooperative. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to award the bid to Keystone Cooperative. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Requests: Phillips said he has two public relations requests. The first request is up to \$500.00 for a retirement celebration for two employees. The other request is up to \$2,000.00 for the city Christmas party on December 20th. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, to approve both requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Burial Rights: Keys read a burial rights request for Donya and Damon Mckinnon. There was a motion made by Overton, second by Weishaar, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips thanked Josh Eldridge for taking over the CCMG grant, which the city was awarded. He requested permission from council to pursue a trail grant from Brookside to I-65. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Keys said she has received the 1782 notice and all of the budget were approved, no cuts needed.

Watson said great job to everyone, their work is much appreciated.

Weishaar had nothing.

Rayburn gave positive feedback to Davis that a resident shared with him.

Arnold said he attended the Veteran's Day program at the cemetery and that the staff there are proud of the work they are doing.

Overton said the Veteran's Day ceremony was very nice.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said his newest hire will be starting the academy in January, which lasts 16 weeks.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart said notices have been sent to outside users

Building Dept: Davis said there is a Redevelopment Commission meeting Thursday and at the next council meeting there will be a public hearing for vacating alleyways.

Fire Dept: Haun said the 1996 city pumper is down again.

Electric Dept: Welker had nothing.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said lead service work is continuing and they are replacing hydrants.

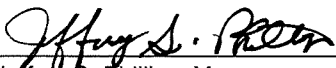
Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge was absent.

Gas Dept: C. Lockridge was absent.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger said the Veteran's Day ceremony had an attendance of ~60 people.

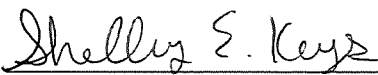
Park Dept: Hall said bathroom parks have been winterized. Phase 2 of the pool house mural is ongoing and she is working with the Chamber of Commerce for park activities during the Christmas parade.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Weishaar, second by Rayburn, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer