

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
November 25, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on November 25, 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 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, Building Commissioner Josh Davis, Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger, 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 and Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge. Fire Chief Kenny Haun was absent.

Also in attendance were: Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Ryan Ritter, Josh Eldridge, Todd Wilson, Michelle Lagastee, Marc Ekstrom, Angie Haun, Caleb DeJong, Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican and Stace Pickering.

The minutes of the November 12, 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: Michelle Lagastee, with the Jasper County Trails Club, gave an update on what the group is getting accomplished and said the city is doing a great job with walkability.

Public Hearing to Vacate Un-Named Road and Vacate Prairie Street: There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to close the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Arnold, to open the public hearing to vacate Un-Named Road and Prairie Street. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to continue the public hearing to December 9th at 6:00 PM as both adjoining landowners have requested a continuance. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to open the regular meeting.

Resolution 30-2024, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the General Fund for \$55,710.00, EDIT Fund for \$95,701.00, Riverboat Fund for \$11,500.00, PS-LIT Fund for \$15,000.00, CCI Fund for \$50,000.00 and CCD Fund for \$80,000.00. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Gas Superintendent Appointment: Phillips said applicants were interviewed and he would like for council to approve his appointment of Todd Wilson as the Gas Department Superintendent beginning January 3rd. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Overton, to approve Wilson as the superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

HWC Engineering Contract – ADA Transition & Title VI Update: Davis said this contract would be to update the ADA transition plan, which is federally required and is needed to get CCMG funding. The contract amount is for \$25,000.00 and Davis requested permission for the Mayor to sign. Funding will come from the Building Department budget. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

USDA-RD 2025 Proposed Budget Statement: Black said this is a financial report that is due annually. He requested permission for the Clerk-Treasurer to sign the report. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Peerless Midwest Well Head Protection Plan: Black said this is for a 5-year update for the well-head protection plan and will include updated aerial photographs, among other deliverables. The proposal amount is not-to-exceed \$14,750.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to approve the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Department Truck Quotes for Consideration: Black presented two quotes for a new service truck within the Water Department. There was a quote from Ray Skillman for \$63,947.75 and Gutwein Motors for \$62,119.00. Both of the quotes are without a trade-in. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the quote from Gutwein Motors for \$62,119.00. 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 Overton, second by Rayburn, to allow Phillips to sign the credit card activity log. The motion passed unanimously.

RDC Spending Plan: Keys said this is a new requirement for Redevelopment Commissions and is due in Gateway December 1st. The Rensselaer Redevelopment Commission has already approved the spending plan, council has been provided a copy. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, acknowledging receipt of the spending plan. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Administrative Comments:

Phillips congratulated Wilson.

Keys congratulated Wilson.

Watson said great job at getting all the leaves off the streets and congrats to Wilson.

Weishaar congratulated Wilson and told Black to give his department thanks for their work.

Rayburn asked Davis if he had spoken with the R&M owners recently. Davis said he would reach out.

Arnold echoed Weishaars comments. He also commented that the city should look at a mass alert system to notify residents of issues faster.

Overton congratulated Wilson on a job well done and gave his appreciation for him stepping up.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson had nothing.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart said the Christmas lights look fantastic.

Building Dept: Davis said the Redevelopment approved the Enlargement of the Drexel/Fairgrounds Development Area, the new Van Elementary Residential Allocation Area, and the Amended Drexel/Fairgrounds Development Plan. He also requested to obtain outside counsel for the petition to vacate alleys, as Sammons has a conflict. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to allow Davis to retain outside counsel. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Dept: Haun was absent.

Electric Dept: Welker said the Christmas lights have been put up and the light poles at Filson Park are going up tomorrow.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said the I-65 design plans are 95% complete.

Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge was absent.

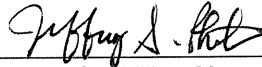
Gas Dept: C. Lockridge said Happy Thanksgiving.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger had nothing.

Park Dept: Hall said she is looking into a comprehensive plan for the parks. The Christmas parade, activities and Filson Park ribbon cutting will be December 7th.

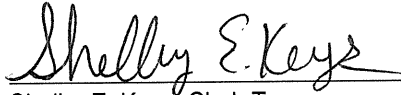
Todd Wilson gave his thanks to Carol, Jeff and Council.

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 6:33 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer