

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENNELAER UTILITY BOARD
January 27, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on January 27, 2025 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 Russ Overton 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 and Gas Supt. Todd Wilson

Also, in attendance were: Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Kim and Eugene Wright, Anthony Butler, Dave Henninger, Kim Denton, Barb Michals, Nancy Studer, Scott Malone, Ken Webber with Reach Alert, Terri Phegley, Stace Pickering and Harley Tomlinson.

The minutes of the January 13, 2025 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Rayburn, to approve the minutes with amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Public Hearing - Vacate a Public Right-Of-Way in the Austin Paxton's 2nd Addition: There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to close the regular meeting and open a public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Eugene and Kim Wright petitioned the City Council to vacate an unoccupied portion of the alley on the north side of Austin & Paxton's 2nd Addition Subdivision. Building Commissioner Davis explained the Plan Commission recently approved two plat amendments which made the Wrights the sole abutting owners to the south and the vast majority to the north. The east boundary of the request abuts a drainage ditch which already prevents access from the east. The only utilities within the alley lie on west of the portion of the alley requested. K. Veirk Farms, the other abutting owner to the north of the west 10 ft portion of the requested vacation, did not raise an objection prior to the hearing or during the hearing. Davis stated that if the Council approved the vacation, an ordinance would need to be prepared to finalize it. There were no comments from the public.

There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Vacate a Public Right-Of-Way in the Austin Paxton's 2nd Addition: There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, to vacate the requested public right-of-way. The motion passed unanimously.

Art in the Alley: Barb Michals with the Prairie Arts Council requested the closure of Kellner Blvd on Sunday, June 22nd from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Reach Alert System: Ken Webber with Reach Alert gave a demonstration on how the system works. Discussion was had and different pros and cons were weighed. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold to accept the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

Peerless Midwest Maintenance Proposal: Black requested permission to move forward with the \$26,368.00 quote for a high service pump. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

Swearing-In Ceremony: Mayor Phillips swore in new Gas Superintendent Todd Wilson.

Introduction to Ordinance 02-2025, Zoning & Subdivision Control Fee Schedule: Arnold introduced an updated fee schedule. The current fees were passed prior to 2008. Discussion was had and Davis requested council send him their comments.

Ordinance 03-2025, Zone Map Amendment (8642 S 380 W): Arnold said this 3.5 acre parcel is southeast of town in the buffer zone. It has been presented to the Plan Commission and they have given it a favorable recommendation. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 04-2025, Subdivision Control Text Amendment: Arnold says this comes as a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission to form a 3-member Plat Committee to streamline the process for small-scale subdivisions. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 02-2025, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer request within the General Fund for \$25,000.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Forms: Keys said there were Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement forms filed by Arnold, Rayburn and Watson for council's consideration. There was a motion Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve Arnold's disclosure forms, with Arnold abstaining. The motion passed by majority. There was a motion Arnold, second by Weishaar, to approve Rayburn's disclosure forms, with Rayburn abstaining. The motion passed by majority. There was

a motion Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve Watson's disclosure forms, with Watson abstaining. The motion passed by majority.

2020 Census Redistricting: Davis provided an updated ward map. Council would like to see the population more equally spread amongst wards. A committee of Arnold, Weishaar and Davis was formed to draft a new map.

Pool House Roof Quotes and Down Payment Request: Hall received 3 quotes for a new roof on the pool house. She made a recommendation to move forward with Style Craft. They are requesting 20% down. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the recommendation and the 20% down payment in the amount of \$23,700.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Appleseed Funding Request: There was a funding request for Appleseed in the amount of \$100,000.00. Discussion was had on the contribution and how it would be spent. Arnold was concerned with giving that amount to one entity and requested an accounting of how the money will be spent. There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve the funding request. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold voting nay.

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.

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

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said there is talk at the State regarding passing a wheel tax to receive CCMG funding.

Keys had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Weishaar said she has already talked with Black about the city's snow removal policy.

Rayburn asked if there was an update on the old R&M building. There was not. Rayburn also asked about the old cleaners building. Davis said they need to get multiple appraisals before moving forward.

Arnold had nothing.

Overton had nothing.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson had nothing.

Law Dept: Sammons left the meeting to attend a County meeting.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis thanked Council for attending the Plan Commission meeting. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting February 3rd at 5:00.

Fire Dept: Haun said he is having electrical issues at the fire house.

Electric Dept: Welker had nothing.

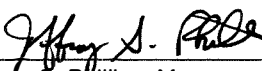
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said a PER was submitted for approval regarding lead service work. A meeting with the County will be taking place this week to review the I-65 plans.

Gas Dept: Wilson said meters are now outside the light plant and the new gas department hire starts on Monday.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger had nothing.

Park Dept: Hall said she met with an architect to look at the future of the light plants and that a chamber meeting will be held there on February 12th.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Rayburn, second by Weishaar, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer