

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
February 10, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on February 10, 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 Jeff Seger 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, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Gas Supt. Todd Wilson and Assistant Superintendent Josh Eldridge. Park Supt Heather Hall was absent.

Also in attendance were: Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Harley Tomlinson, Jim Miller, Mike and Mary Molenaar, Stace Pickering and Rein Bontreger.

The minutes of the January 27, 2025 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Weishaar, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Ordinance 02-2025, Zoning & Subdivision Control Fee Schedule: Arnold said this is the 2nd reading of the ordinance and comes as a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission. Watson said he needed more information on this and does not agree with the fees. Weishaar would like to see a comparison to the County and other local communities. There was a recommendation to reach out to JCEDO for the information. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to table to the discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Ordinance 05-2025, Vacation of a Public Way (A&P 2nd Addition Alleyway): Davis said this ordinance is in regard to the public hearing that was held at the last council meeting. Once approved, it will be recorded at the County and filed with the Auditor. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the 1st reading.

Introduction of Ordinance 06-2025, Councilmanic Districts: Sammons said this topic has been discussed previously at meetings. This is an introduction of the updated councilmanic districts. The County will be provided a notice of the intent to pass the ordinance. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the 1st reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 03-2025, Gas Tracker: Wilson stated the gas tracker reflects an 11¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Weishaar, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

ADA Improvement Quotes: Phillips requested to table this discussion. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to table this discussion. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold abstaining.

Cylinders and Snacks: Rein Bontreger requested permission to close a portion of Harrison St. on Thursday's from 5:00-7:30 PM beginning May 22nd and ending September 25th. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Request: Phillips requested \$1,500.00 for the chamber luncheon that will be hosted at the Light Plant. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Weishaar, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Clean-Up Week Declaration: Black recommended clean-up week be May 5th-May 9th. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said there is a Chamber meeting Wednesday at the Light Plant. Baker-Tilly will be at the next superintendents meeting to discuss a holistic approach to spending. He congratulated the girls' basketball team on winning sectionals.

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. Davis said he has met with Hamstra's and the designs look good. He also asked about the old cleaners building and Davis said Redevelopment gave the go-ahead to move forward with appraisals.

Arnold had nothing.

Overton had nothing.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson had nothing.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis said they are waiting on CSX plan approval. The Street Dept. will do the drainage work. The Plan Commission meeting has been moved to next Tuesday.

Fire Dept: Haun said city-wide yard sales will be May 3rd. He received a call regarding the help the department provided NIPSCO during a rescue operation.

Electric Dept: Welker had nothing.

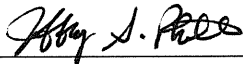
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Eldridge said there was a sewer collapse and water main break in the same area on Friday. Black thanked the County for their assistance. The sewer/water/gas extension project got approval to go out for bid. Design work for 7th Street was approved. Black requested approval for up to 4 summer helpers. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Gas Dept: Wilson said they are putting a gas line in at REMC and another at Sunset Ridge.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger had nothing.

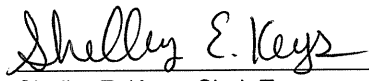
Park Dept: Hall was absent.

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 6:34 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer