

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

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on March 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 Sean Johnson 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 Sergeant John Davis, Lead Line Foreman Garrett Welker, Park Supt Heather Hall, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, and Gas Supt. Todd Wilson. Police Chief Matt Anderson and Utility Office Manager Heather Smart were absent.

Also in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson, Joel Szcepanski, Jerry and Carol Lockridge, Sara DeYoung, Stace Pickering, and the Lady Bombers Basketball Team.

The minutes of the February 24th, 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:** Joel Szcepanski, representing Saint Augustine Church, requested a temporary road closure on Susan Street between Weston and Mckinley on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-10:00 PM for a fundraiser. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 06-2025, Lady Bomber Basketball:** Mayor Phillips recognized the Lady Bomber Basketball Team for an outstanding 2024-2025 season. There was a motion by Overton, second by Weishaar, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**JCEDO Contribution Request:** Sara DeYoung gave an update regarding ongoing projects and requested the annual contribution of \$10,000.00. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the contribution request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 04-2025, Gas Tracker:** Wilson stated the gas tracker reflects a 5¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 05-2025, Transfer of Funds:** Keys read a transfer request within the General Fund for \$30,250.00. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**LED Streetlights Purchase Request:** Welker presented a proposal to switch out all street lights to LED. This proposal is for phase one in the amount of \$134,792.50. He said it would be a savings of \$20,000.00/year. This item has been budgeted for and is included in the capital asset plan. Arnold asked if this would include inventory or if all the lights purchased will be used. Welker said it includes inventory. Keys asked how many phases and Welker said about 5. Rayburn asked if this would make the streets brighter and Welker said yes. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Painting Proposal:** Wilson presented a mock-up of the gas department building with a new paint job. He received 3 quotes and suggested going with the middle quote by Certapro Painters in the amount of \$24,550.00 as the contractor came and met with the department, was professional, and he had the most confidence in. There is a 1-year warranty. It will take them 3-5 days to complete, starting some time in May. It is budgeted for and has been planned for. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to accept the Certapro Painters quote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Council Meeting Date Change:** Mayor Phillips suggested changing the May 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to the 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to accept the meeting date change. The motion passed unanimously.

**Burial Rights Requests:** Keys read requests for Burial Rights in the Weston Cemetery. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Rayburn, to accept the burial rights. 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.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**Committee Reports:** None.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Phillips** said we are moving forward with getting rid of timecards. INDOT contacted him about the trail grant.

**Keys** said the AFR has been submitted on Gateway and she is working on an additional appropriation to help out with the Melville project.

**Watson** had nothing.

**Weishaar** had nothing.

**Rayburn** asked that we continue encouraging residents to sign up for the Reach Alert system.

**Arnold** had nothing.

Overton had nothing.

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Police Dept:** Davis said there have been numerous complaints regarding dogs at a property and he will be speaking with the owners first thing in the morning.

**Law Dept:** Sammons had nothing.

**Utility Office:** Smart was absent.

**Building Dept:** Davis had nothing.

**Fire Dept:** Haun had nothing.

**Electric Dept:** Welker said a lineman is going to apprentice school this week and he is going to IMPA for a class on Wednesday.

**Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage:** Black said the I-65 bid opening has been extended to March 24<sup>th</sup> and will be opened at the Council Meeting.

**Gas Dept:** Wilson said moved a gas line for a downtown business and are starting on an upgraded line next week. They are getting ready to start their yearly valve maintenance.

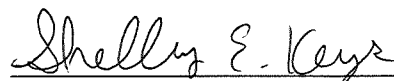
**Cemetery Dept:** Effinger had nothing.

**Park Dept:** Hall said she has hired a new full-time employee. There are 5 new benches at Filson Park. March 27<sup>th</sup> is the kickoff meeting for the parks comprehensive plan.

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 6:51 p.m.

  
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Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer