

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
March 24, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on March 24, 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 Kenin Smith, the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed in honor of Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures who recently passed away.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Jeff Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer Shelby Keys, Council Members Russ Overton, 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, 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. Council Member Kevin Arnold and Police Chief Matt Anderson.

Also in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson, Pat Fox, Jim Miller, Ryan LaReau, Andrew Robarge, Gabrielle Taber, Brad and Tasha Murray, Tim Shide and Mike and Mary Molenaar.

The minutes of the March 10th, 2025 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Public Hearing – Lead Service Line Replacement Preliminary Engineering Report: There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to close the regular meeting and open a public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Andrew Robarge with Commonwealth Engineers said this hearing is an SRF requirement. This would be to replace lead lines in state roadways, the City will self-perform all other lead lines. 51 total services for a total of \$1,051,875.00. Rayburn asked if this was primarily residences and Robarge said yes. Bidding for the project will be done later on and this is solely for engineering. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

Little Cousin Jasper: Pat Fox requested the use of Potawatomi Park, Iroquois Park and possibly Filson Park from September 5th to September 8th. She also requested the closure of Front St, College Ave, and Kellner Blvd. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the requested areas. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

There was another request made by Brad Murray to allow a fishing-derby along the Iroquois River and apply for a DNR permit. Rayburn asked if there were any safety concerns and Keys asked if they would have insurance for the event. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to allow the fishing derby pending a permit acceptance from the DNR and obtaining insurance. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

PER Acceptance Resolution & SRF Signatory Authorization Resolution: LaReau said this would be to accept the PER and allow Mayor Phillips to sign the application. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

I-65 Sewer/Water/Gas Extension Bid Opening: Black read from the following bid packages that were received:

- Bid #1- Grimmer Construction, Inc.
2619 Main Street, Highland, IN 46322
Bid \$3,916,807.00
- Bid #2 – Gatlin Plumbing and Heating, Inc.
1111 E. Main St Griffith, IN, 46319
Bid \$3,750,000.00
- Bid #3 – Gradex Inc.
10220 N. Illinois Street, Carmel, IN 46290
Bid \$4,262,000.00
- Bid #4 – Atlas Excavating, Inc.
4740 Swisher Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906
Bid \$4,083,206.00

Bids will be reviewed and a recommendation will be brought to the next Council meeting on April 14th.

CSO LTP Flow Monitoring & Hydraulic Model Scope: Robarge said this would update the hydrologic model that is currently from the early 2000's. The cost would be \$389,894.00. This project is part of the long-term control plan and agreed upon with IDEM. There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to proceed with the installation of flow meters. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

Roof Replacement Considerations: Black presented quotes for a new roof on the water treatment plant and street department building. Both roofs are leaking and have water damage. Quotes were received for both and Black is recommending going with silicon roofs and the longer warranties. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by to approve the recommendation of Steve's Specialized Services quote for the water treatment plant in the amount of \$32,205.00 and Tried and True Builder's for the street department in the amount of \$12,900.00. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

Resolution 08-2025, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the General Fund for \$32.83. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

Burial Rights Requests: Keys read requests for Burial Rights in the Weston Cemetery. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to accept the burial rights. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

Credit Card Statement: Phillips asked for council's permission to sign the credit card activity log. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to allow Phillips to sign the credit card activity log. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

FMLA Request: Keys said there is an FMLA request. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the request. The motion passed by majority, with Arnold absent.

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 by majority, with Arnold absent.

Unfinished Business: None

Administrative Comments:

Phillips recognized Eli Kosiba who won the Nationals and got 4th place in the world for high jump. He announced Superintendents will be starting leadership training in April.

Keys gave her condolences regarding Mr. Schenk.

Watson said there is a lot of trash along Elm Street.

Weishaar gave a reminder about Reach Alert.

Rayburn said along W. Clark Street there is a camper that appears to be lived in. He also discussed doing a memorial for Mr. Schenk, possibly a bike rack in Filson Park.

Arnold was absent.

Overton had nothing.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Davis had nothing.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart thanked the departments that helped her move boxes of records that received approval to be destroyed.

Building Dept: Davis said there is a Redevelopment Commission meeting on April 7th. There will be a Plan Commission meeting to expand the size of the buffer zone on the west side of I-65.

Fire Dept: Haun said there are trainings in April.

Electric Dept: Welker said a lineman passed a test and is now on his 3rd year apprenticeship.

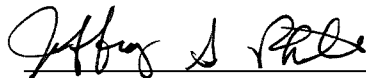
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said repairs on the Melville sewer line began this morning and the Amtrak drainage project will start tomorrow. Ryan Ritter was awarded apprentice of the year recently at a conference. Eldridge said April 12th will be the spring electronics recycling at the Gas Department from 8 AM – 12 PM. He also said the IDEM recycling grant was approved.

Gas Dept: Wilson said they have multiple lines being installed this week.

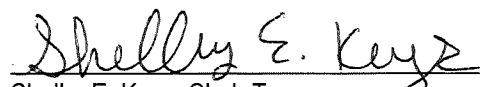
Cemetery Dept: Effinger had nothing.

Park Dept: Hall said the new roof is on Gifford Shelter. The LaRue Pool is currently getting a new roof and being painted, along with Columbia Park. A new employee is starting and 2 grants will be submitted by the end of the week.

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 7:07 p.m.


Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:


Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer