

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD  
June 24, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on June 24, 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 Debbie Voss 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, Park Supt. and Interim Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Officer Dan White, Lead Line Foreman Garrett Welker, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black and Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge. Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart and Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge were absent.

Also in attendance were: Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Greg Whaley, Stace Pickering, Chris and Rhonda Murphy, Keith Arnett, and Cody Heldak.

The minutes of the June 10, 2024 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:** Keith Arnett would like to see the alley between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> street extended. He also said there was a street light on 9<sup>th</sup> street that will not stay on. Phillips said the city research both items. Greg Whaley requested that the ordinance which created minimum house sizes be revisited. Whaley believes the minimum square footage is approximately 1,100 square feet and he feels that is too large for today's housing market. Rather than prohibiting houses that don't meet the minimum, he would like to see an architectural committee formed that would review and approve smaller houses. Davis commented that the square footage requirements are part of the zoning ordinance and each residential district has a different minimum requirement. Mayor Phillips stated that Whaley's request would be taken under consideration and a response would be provided to him within a couple weeks.

**Resolution 15-2024, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Electric Tracker:** Welker said this electric tracker reflects a \$2.34 decrease per 1,000 kWh consumed. There was a motion by Overton, second by Arnold, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Employee Recognition:** Chris Murphy was recognized for 40 years of service working for the City of Rensselaer. Black thanked him for being an asset to the department.

**Credit Card Statement:** Phillips asked for council's permission to sign the credit card activity log. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to allow Phillips to sign the activity log. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Phillips said the concrete floors have been poured in the light plant.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Phillips** had nothing.

**Keys** had nothing.

**Watson** had nothing.

**Rayburn** thanked Effinger for all the extra work him and his crew have been putting in. Rayburn asked Davis how many cars can be sold on a residential lot before it becomes a business. Davis said he would get him an answer.

**Weishaar** said she had someone in her ward complaining about a business along the Iroquois River. Davis said he is aware and has been in communication with the business.

**Arnold** said he is aware of a new law requiring public meetings to be live streamed in 2025. Davis said he is working on getting a plan together.

**Overton** had nothing.

**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.

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Police Dept:** White said Cruise Night is July 6<sup>th</sup>. All 11 officers will be working in addition to County officers.

**Law Dept:** Sammons had nothing.

**Utility Office:** Smart was absent.

**Building Dept:** Davis said the Plan Commission formed a committee to update the fee schedule. There is a Redevelopment Meeting on Monday.

**Fire Dept:** Haun said he emailed his report to council. The annual boot drive will be July 6<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 12 pm.

**Electric Dept:** Welker had nothing.

**Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage:** Black said the potholing project has started and that he is applying for a grant to provide CDL training to employees.

**Project Coordinator:** J. Lockridge was absent.

**Gas Dept:** C. Lockridge had nothing.

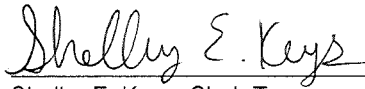
**Cemetery Dept:** Effinger had nothing.

**Park Dept:** Effinger said he is getting the parks ready for cruise night.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to adjourn.  
The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

  
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Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer