

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
July 28, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on July 28, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation offered by Debbie Voss.

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, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart, Park Supt Heather Hall, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, and Gas Supt. Todd Wilson.

Building Commissioner Josh Davis, Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger and Lead Line Foreman Garrett Welker were absent.

Also in attendance were: Lead Meter Foreman Heath Malone, Ronald Cox, Nancy Stueder, Stace Pickering, Harley Tomlinson, Rein Bontreger, Brienne Hooker, Anthony Schotanus, and Richard Comingore.

The minutes of the July 14, 2025 regular council meeting and July 18, 2025 executive meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve both sets of minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: Councilman Rayburn, on behalf of the RENARTWLK organization, requested to close one block of Front Street from what was formally known as Stunt Dawg Studio, leaving access to the stoplight and the BP gas station. There will be a video presentation of the painting of the water tower and the summer murals. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Milroy Park Project: Brienne Hooker and Heather Hall gave an update on a gazebo project that will be going up in Milroy Park.

IDEM Recycling Grant 2nd Round: Eldridge requested permission to apply for a 2nd rounding of funding through IDEM. If awarded, a new baler would be bought that would allow #5 recyclables to be collected. The grant is a 75/25 match. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Rayburn, to allow Eldridge to apply for the grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Oktoberfest Road Closure: Stace Pickering with Main Street Rensselaer requested the closure of Van Rensselaer St from Harrison to Washington St on September 27th from 10:00 AM – 11:30 PM. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Promotion of Heath Malone: Mayor Phillips said he would like council's approval of the promotion of Heath Malone to Manager of Electric Operations. There was a motion by Overton, second by Weishaar, to approve the promotion. The motion passed unanimously.

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 credit card activity log. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 22-2025, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the general fund for \$3,000.00. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Overton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Burial Rights Request: Keys read a burial rights request. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the requests. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said Senior Day is Friday at Jasper County Community Services.

Keys gave an update on the new timekeeping software.

Watson had nothing.

Weishaar congratulated Malone on his promotion.

Rayburn had nothing.

Arnold congratulated Malone on his promotion.

Overton had nothing.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said he is hoping to have interviews with the BOPW on August 11th for the new officer. He reported there were no major incidents during fair week.

Law Dept: Sammons thanked Eldridge for his work on obtaining new waste/recycling receptacles for down town, they are a nice addition.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis was absent.

Fire Dept: Haun said the city's ladder truck was used to assist with the Monon fire. Kids night at the Farmer's Market is tomorrow and he is working the State Fire Marshall's booth at the Indiana State Fair this week.

Electric Dept: Malone thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the Electric Department.

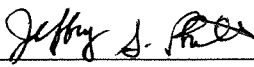
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said 2 of the 3 I-65 easements have been recorded. The City is currently out of compliance with ADA for a grant that is wanted, but should meet the deadline of August 27th to be in compliance. Eldridge said the employees enjoyed the picnic. CCMG should be complete tomorrow.

Gas Dept: Wilson said they are still waiting on the boring machine. They will be installing small signage near high pressure mains.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger was absent.

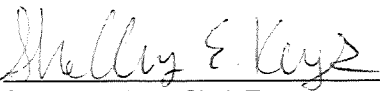
Park Dept: Hall said there is a steering committee meeting to discuss ideas for the light plant. Rensselaer Rotary donated \$10,000.00 for pool upgrades. A slide, lounge chairs and toys were purchased. Friday night will be a disc golf tournament.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer