

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
August 11, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on August 11, 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 Kenin Smith.

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

Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger was absent.

Also in attendance were: Brad Miller, Kayti Adams with HWC, Craig Hooker, Scott & Brenda Green, Karen Stanley, Rick Williams, Richard Green, Dave Staddon, Ote Wood, Ron Scheffler, Harley Tomlinson, Harley Houghton, Stace Pickering and Aren Flint with the Davey Group.

The minutes of the July 28, 2025 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: Kenin Smith gave his appreciation to the Mayor and city for the support shown to Teen Mission.

Tree Inventory Presentation: The Rensselaer Urban Forestry Council and consultant Aren Flint gave an overview of the tree maintenance plan that was compiled from a study done by Davey Group. They will be hosting a community meeting on October 16th at 6:00 pm at Embers to review the work plan.

ADA Transition & Title VI Plan: Kayti Adams with HWC said Title 6 and ADA needs updated to be in compliance to receive federal funding. The plan will be held in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office for the next two weeks. Individuals can review it and leave comments if they wish. It will be submitted to INDOT after the approval.

CCMG 2024-2 Payment Application #1: Black said the total of the first pay app is \$302,049.13. \$75,512.28 of that comes from local matching funds. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the payment. The motion passed unanimously.

PFAS Grant Update: Black said the city was awarded \$1,191,132.00 for additional PFAS testing.

Equipment Purchase: Chief Anderson requested permission to move forward with a purchase of 12 new handguns and 11 body cameras with a 5-year warranty. The handguns will be under \$12,000.00 and the body cams with the warranty will be \$54,000.00 There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

EV Charging Station Grant Update: Malone said they were awarded \$10,000.00 to install the EV charging station. The plan currently is to install 2 units, possibly in Filson Park. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to move forward with the grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 23-2025, Gas Tracker: Wilson stated the gas tracker reflects a 5¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Overton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 24-2025, ADA Coordinator Appointment: There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the resolution and appoint Josh Davis as the ADA Coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 13-2025, Establishing a DORA: The first reading of Ordinance 13-2025 was presented. This would create a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) within the main street of downtown. This would allow certain establishments to sell beverages that could be taken outside within the DORA limits.

Ordinance 14-2025, Repeal Community Disability Fund: Davis said this fund was created in the early 2000's and was repealed via council vote in 2012. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

FMLA Request: Keys said an FMLA application has been submitted. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented to council for approval. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Arnold, to approve the claims. The motion passed by majority, with Rayburn abstaining.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said there are a few issues with getting the light plant insured and upgrades are needed. Steve's Specialized Service quoted \$32,000.00 to do work on the roof and tuck pointing. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the quote. The motion passed unanimously.

Keys had nothing.
Watson had nothing.
Weishaar had nothing.
Rayburn asked if the city would be ADA compliant by August 27th. Black said yes.
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 the Redevelopment Commission is working on a solution for the old dry cleaner building on Cullen St. There is a Plan Commission & BZA meeting on August 21st.

Fire Dept: Haun had nothing.

Electric Dept: Malone had nothing.

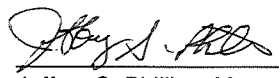
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said they will be meeting with the County and engineers regarding the trails grant. Materials for 7th street will be coming in soon. Eldridge said the striping for cross walks and stop bars should be complete soon. IDEM grant #2 has been submitted.

Gas Dept: Wilson said the boring machine has arrived. The gas department open house will be September 4th from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger was absent.

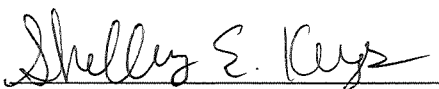
Park Dept: Hall said the pool will be drained tomorrow and she is working on demolishing the old park headquarters at Iroquois.

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 7:24 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer