

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
October 27, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on October 27, 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, Building Commissioner Jacob Hall, 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, Gas Supt. Todd Wilson and Assistant Superintendent Josh Eldridge.

City Attorney Todd Sammons and Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger were absent.

Also in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican, Jim Miller, Stace Pickering, Ryan LaReau with Commonwealth Engineers, Bill & Elaine White, Officer Dan White, Deputy Brett Fase, Brienne Hooker, Zyan Miller, Dave Henninger, Steve Jones with the State Fire Marshalls Office and Sheriff Williamson.

The minutes of the October 13, 2025 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Childcare: Brienne Hooker presented obstacles childcare facilities in the state of Indiana are currently facing. She asked that council continue their support of Appleseed.

Lifesaving Award: Chief Anderson said that on October 7th there was a fire on the west side of town where Officer White and Deputy Fase were first to arrive on-scene and successfully removed a victim from the residence. Steve Jones, with the State Fire Marshalls Office, presented the duo with a Heroic Lifesaving Award.

Mayor's Holiday: Phillips' requested that the 2026 mayoral holiday be on January 2, 2026. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Watson, to approve the date. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 30-2025, Amending Res 26-2023 Rensselaer Comprehensive Plan: Phillips said this would adopt the housing action plan and incorporate it into the comprehensive plan. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Overton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 34-2025, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the general fund for \$10,665.00, CCI for \$30,000.00 and CCD for \$84,000.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 21-2025, 2026 Budget: Keys conducted the 2nd reading for the 2026 City Budget as follows:

Fund Name	Proposed Budget	Proposed Tax Levy	Proposed Tax Rate
CASINO/RIVERBOAT	\$35,000	\$0	0.0000
GENERAL	\$4,297,104	\$1,600,000	0.5937
DEBT PAYMENT	\$111,163	\$100,604	0.0373
LOCAL INCOME TAX	\$854,113	\$0	0.0000
LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$59,485	\$0	0.0000
MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	\$612,875,	\$230,000	0.0853
CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$10,000	\$0	0.0000
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMP	\$26,000	\$0	0.0000
CUMULATIVE CAP DEV.	\$251,146	\$158,529	0.0500
EDIT	\$311,000	\$0	0.0000
REDEVELOPMENT - GENERAL	\$9,500	\$10,000	0.0037
	Total: \$6,577,386	Total: \$2,099,133	Total: 0.7700

There was a motion made by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 23-2025, 2026 Salary Ordinance: Keys said this was the 2nd reading of the ordinance. She has checked with superintendents that all department numbers are correct. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the ordinance. 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 activity log. The motion passed unanimously.

LSL Contingency Project Bid Award: Ryan LaReau said after reviewing the bid packets, they are suggesting awarding the bid to Atlas Excavating, who had the lowest bid of \$697,000.00. This project will be funded with \$435,000.00 of contingency funds available. There was a motion by Overton, second by Weishaar, to award the bid to Atlas Excavating, using only the contingency funds available. The motion passed by majority, with Rayburn abstaining.

7th St. Paving Bid Award: Ryan Lareau said after reviewing the bid packets, they are suggesting awarding the bid to Town & Country paving, who had the lowest bid of \$86,595.00. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to award the bid to Town & Country Paving. The motion passed unanimously.

Fuel Bid Opening: Phillips opened the bids and they are as follows:

Item #1, Unleaded Gasoline.

Keystone Cooperative \$2.50/gallon with an escalator clause.

Item #2, Diesel Fuel.

Keystone Cooperative \$2.6870/gallon and \$2.7320/gallon for premium diesel fuel, both with an escalator clause.

The bids will be taken under advisement with a recommendation at the next council meeting.

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

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said the Christmas party will be December 19th from 1-4 at the fire station. He requested up to \$1,500.00 out of the public relations fund to cover party expenses. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was had on whether or not to waive the tap fee requirements for the 7th St. lots. Weishaar thought the fees should be kept, as anyone else within the city wanting to develop would incur the same fees. Overton asked how much the fees were. Phillips said \$2,000 a piece for water and sewer. Rayburn felt the fees should be waived as it encourages growth. Arnold stated a developer or builder understands that those fees are a normal part of doing business. Discussion was had and it was decided it would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Keys had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Weishaar said she is planning ahead and 2026 will be the 250th celebration of the 4th of July. She would like everyone to think of some ways the city can celebrate.

Rayburn had nothing.

Arnold had nothing.

Overton had nothing.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said Halloween is Friday and there will be more of a police presence than normal days.

Law Dept: Sammons was absent.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Fire Dept: Haun said 1,100 feet of hose was tested. All but 50 feet passed. Pump testing also took place and all but the city truck passed. He has purchased 2 more containers for the training site with a cost of \$3,500.00. He requested permission for the Clerk's Office to cut a check upon delivery of the containers. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Electric Dept: Malone had nothing.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said the courthouse sidewalks should be done within the next couple of weeks. Sewer is finished at 7th street and water is close. They are beginning to bore and jack under the interstate for the I-65 project. Eldridge said the application for CCMG has been submitted.

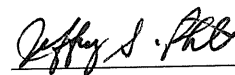
Gas Dept: Wilson said leak survey testing is finished. Nothing major was found. 4,500 feet of pipe on the east side of I-65 has been installed.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger was absent.

Park Dept: Hall said there are multiple park events this week. The old shop at Iroquois park has been demolished and they are working on a concession stand on the south side of Brookside.

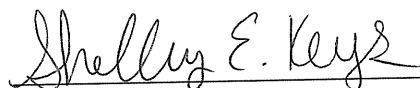
Building Dept: Hall said he has received 13 applications to fill the administrative position in the department. Mr. Otten has sent the purchase agreement for 470 N Cullen St.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority and the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer