

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
November 10, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on November 10, 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 Kevin Arnold.

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

Park Supt Heather Hall and Assistant Superintendent Josh Eldridge were absent.

Also in attendance were: Anne and Vince Cercone, Barbara Carroll, Jim Miller, Stace Pickering, Jovita and Jeffrey Courtney, Ashley Linback, Sarah Hurd and Greg Whaley.

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: Ashley Linback spoke on behalf of her neighborhood and detailed the excessive speeding that continues to occur along Emmet Avenue between the quarry and the Verizon store. It is not just a certain time or specific vehicle. They would like a way to slow down traffic and possible solutions were a stop sign, speed bump or a speed tracker sign.

7th Street Tap Fees: Phillips said this item was a continuing discussion from the last meeting. He said this property has been in the city for a while, with no development occurring, and he would like to see the tap fees stay in-place as the city is already helping with utilities and a road. No further discussion was had and no motion was made to waive the fees.

Façade Program: The façade program was created jointly by the Building Dept. and JCEDO in 2023. Phillips said JCEDO is now requesting a 10% admin fee, per every grant awarded. He said the RDC has made a motion to allow that, so long as the SBOA allows paying that fee. Keys said there would need to be a new RDC resolution passed to include the new fee.

2026 Fuel Bid Award: Black said the recommendation is to award Keystone the fuel bids for gas and diesel. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 35-2025, Gas Tracker: Wilson stated the gas tracker reflects a 5¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 24-2025, 2026 Water Bonds: Black said this is the first reading for the \$2,000,000.00 lead service line project. Rayburn asked what happens if residents refuse. Black said we have to make 3 good faith attempts or they can submit a letter say they decline. If they decline and the property sells, contact will be made with the new residents.

Ordinance 25-2025, 2026 Water Rate Ordinance: Black said this rate increase is to cover bonds and capital improvements. There will be a 16.2% increase split up over a 2-year period beginning January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027. The public hearing will be held on November 24th.

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

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said utility budgets will be ready in November.

Keys had nothing.

Watson said he would like to see more salt on the corner by Donaldson's and Con Agra.

Weishaar had nothing.

Rayburn had nothing.

Arnold thanked the Gas dept. and Utility Office for the monthly reports they provide.

Overton had nothing.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson had nothing.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Fire Dept: Haun had nothing.

Electric Dept: Malone had nothing.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said all utility work on 7th street is complete. Paving will take place in the spring. An employee is newly dual-certified in water and wastewater.

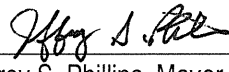
Gas Dept: Wilson said that the gas department is 50% complete on the I-65 project. Gas dept employees are beginning to take their required exams that occur every 3 years, over 100 tests.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger said the Veteran's Day service is tomorrow at 11:00 AM. Flags are out for Wreaths Across America and that will take place on November 13th. He has budgeted for a new dump truck in 2026, but would like to encumber funds from this year's budget to help with the cost. He received two quotes: Fieldhouse Dodge for \$59,619.00 and Gutwein for \$67,833.00, both for a 2026 1-ton with a 9-foot bed. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to allow him to move forward with purchasing from Fieldhouse Dodge. The motion passed unanimously.

Park Dept: Hall was absent.

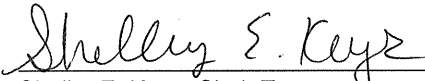
Building Dept: Hall had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Rayburn, second by Overton, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority and the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer