

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 10, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 10, 2023 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by invocation offered by Russ Overton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Shelby Keys; Council Members Russ Overton, Bill Hollerman, Noelle Weishaar, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Jacob Ahler; Building Commissioner Josh Davis; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Asst. Street Supt. Bryce Black; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge; Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican. Cemetery Caretaker Tony Baltes was absent.

Also in attendance were Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Angie Haun, Frieda Bretzinger, Rein Bontreger, Buddy McElroy, Kevin Arnold, Caleb DeJong, Dennis Black, Carol Black, Christina McElroy, Shelby McElroy and Bubba McElroy.

The minutes of the March 27, 2023 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: None.

Ordinance 12-2023, Amend 2023 Salary Ordinance: Keys said this amendment is to update the salary ordinance to align with the policies and procedures ordinance that was passed to include bonuses for 10, 20 and 30 years of service. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 11-2023, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the Building Department for \$8,500.00, the Police Department for \$3,000.00, and EDIT for \$98,000.00. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Weishaar, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 12-2023, Gas Tracker for April: C. Lockridge reported that this tracker reflects a 5¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet of gas. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Weishaar, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

30 Year Employee Recognition: William "Buddy" McElroy was recognized for 30 years of service with the City of Rensselaer Gas Department. C. Lockridge thanked him for being a significant part of the Gas Department for the last 30 years.

Public Relations Fund Request for Little Cousin Jasper: Bretzinger said she was representing the Little Cousin Jasper Committee. Council has previously supported the program and she asked for \$500.00 for it's 2023 Scholarship Program. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Street Closing for Weekly Cylinders and Snacks: Bontreger said he is back for the 3rd year and is requesting the use of Front St. on Thursday evenings from 5:00-7:30 PM starting May 25th and ending September 28th. He commented that people have come from Knox and Newton County. There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Water and Wastewater Field Data Collection: Black suggested to table this item until he can get with the Electric Department to move forward.

2022 TIF Management Report: Wood said council has been provided with the 2022 TIF Management Report. This report is due April 15th in Gateway and council has to acknowledge the report in a meeting. Council acknowledged that they have all received and reviewed the report and had no further comments.

FMLA Request: Keys said there were two FMLA request submitted by employees. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Fund Request: Anderson said last year he was approved funds for flowers in the planters out front of the police department. He requested up to \$150.00 for flowers this year. There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.
J. Lockridge requested up to \$700.00 for pop, donuts, water and lunch on Friday during clean-up week. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Comments:

Weishaar had nothing.

Hollerman had nothing.

Overton had nothing.

Wood said if you know anyone with junk in front of their houses this would be a good time to get rid of it.

Keys had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Cover said school board applications are being accepted until May 8th.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said his department has started tagging vehicles that fit the state statute as an abandoned vehicle. The tag says they have 72 hours but they are working with people to give them extra time.

Law Dept: Ahler had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis had nothing.

Fire Dept: Haun said the city-wide yard sale is April 29th. Applications are currently being accepted at the gas department and fire department.

Electric Dept: Larson had nothing.

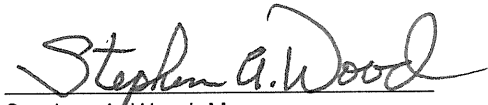
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black gave a reminder about electronics recycling day on April 22nd. J. Lockridge said water tower construction plans have been progressing and he expects to see work start out there soon. There is a meeting with telecommunications on Thursday regarding the brick streets. They will have until the end of June to get their lines moved. Plans will be submitted to EDA this week for approval. Once approved the project will be bid out.

Cemetery Dept: Baltes was absent.

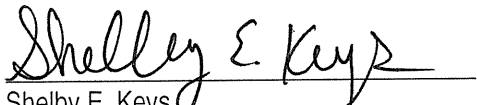
Gas Dept: C. Lockridge had nothing.

Park Dept: Effinger had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Shelby E. Keys
Clerk-Treasurer