

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
August 14, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on August 14, 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 Doug Harris from The Bridge Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also in attendance were Garrett Welker, Caleb DeJong, Jeff Rayburn, Shawn Cain, Bobbi Jo Sammons, Doug Harris, Loren Berenda, and Brandon Schreeg with Kimley Horn.

The minutes of the July 24, 2023 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Arnold, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizen Comments and Petitions:** Bobbi Jo Sammons, President of Main Street Rensselaer, asked for a street closing on September 30<sup>th</sup> for Oktoberfest. Sammons said they would like to use Van Rensselaer Street from Washington to Harrison. There was motion from Cover, second by Weishaar, to allow the street closing for Oktoberfest. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to close the regular meeting and to open a public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Ahler said there are five resolutions to discuss for the public hearing. The council will be addressing each resolution individually.

**Resolution 27-2023, ConAgra Foods Packaged Foods LLC Declaratory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** Ahler asked if there were any comments for the record. There were no comments for the record.

**Resolution 28-2023, Filtration Parts Inc Declaratory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** Ahler asked if there were any comments for the record. There were no comments for the record.

**Resolution 29-2023, Indiana Facemask and Geyer's American Melt Blown Filtration LLC Declaratory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** Ahler asked if there were any comments for the record. There were no comments for the record.

**Resolution 30-2023, Gold Bond Building Products, LLC f/k/a New NGC, Inc. d/b/a/ National Gypsum Company Declaratory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** Ahler asked if there were any comments for the record. There were no comments for the record.

**Resolution 31-2023, Richard N Reese Family, LLC a/k/a Genova USA Declaratory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** Ahler asked if there were any comments for the record. There were no comments for the record.

There was a motion by Overton, second by Weishaar, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 32-2023 August Gas Tracker:** Lockridge stated the gas tracker reflects a 2¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Overton, second by Cover, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 33-2023 ConAgra Foods Packaged Foods LLC Confirmatory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to pass the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 34-2023 Filtration Parts Inc Confirmatory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** There was a motion made by Overton, second by Cover, to pass the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 35-2023 Indiana Facemask and Geyer's American Melt Blown Filtration LLC Confirmatory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** There was motion made by Weishaar, second by Watson, to pass the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 36-2023 Gold Bond Building Products LLC f/k/a New NGC Inc d/b/a National Gypsum Company Confirmatory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** There was a motion made by Arnold, second by Cover, to pass the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 37-2023 Richard N Reese Family LLC a/k/a Genova USA Confirmatory Resolution for Tax Abatement:** There was a motion made by Cover, second by Watson, to pass the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.



**Resolution 38-2023 Transfer of Funds:** Keys read requests for transfer of funds. There was a motion made by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Brick Streets Project Bid Opening:** Keys read the bids and they were as follows:

Milestone Contractors North Inc. submitted a base bid of \$2,520,554.65  
Total Price with Additive 1 – Harrison Street Water Main \$101,114.00  
Total Price with Additive 2 – CIPP Lining \$51,958.20

Grimmer Construction Inc. submitted a base bid of \$2,246,572.00  
Total Price with Additive 1 – Harrison Street Water Main \$98,684.00  
Total Price with Additive 2 – CIPP Lining \$66,164.00

The bids will be taken under advisement for the engineers and attorney to review.

**Burial Rights Requests:** Keys read burial rights requests for Laurence Sheets, Caleb and Kayla DeJong, Derek and Aurora DeJong, and Darlene Killmer. There was a motion made by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve the burial rights requests. The motion passed unanimously.

**Council Recommendation for 2024 Salary Ordinance:** Cover made the recommendation of a 3% increase for full time and permanent part-time employees, but not for summer help. There was a motion made by Watson, second by Overton, to give a 3% raise to full and permanent part-time employees. The motion passed unanimously. There was motion made by Cover, second by Overton, to give elected officials the same raise as employees. The motion passed unanimously.

**ARPA Funds for Phosphorus Improvements:** J. Lockridge said the Board of Public Works and Safety has approved the change order needed to move forward with the project. A permanent structure for the phosphorus improvements is needed in the amount of \$1,669,700.00. J. Lockridge is requesting \$189,300.00 for this project from unutilized ARPA funds.

\$1,669,700.00 – Project Total  
\$249,600.00 - Remaining Rural Development funds  
\$189,300.00 – ARPA funds  
\$90,000.00 - Sewer Depreciation funds  
\$468,200.00 - TIF Construction funds  
\$672,600.00 - TIF Loan funds

Watson asked if this project is a requirement of the City. Black said that upon renewal of our NPDES were granted a 36-month extension to meet the limits and to be in compliance. As of May 1, 2023, we are currently meeting that requirement and in compliance with the setup that is out there now. But, even if we could prove that we could achieve phosphorus removal biologically, IDEM would still require a chemical feed building for redundancy. There was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to approve using ARPA funds for the phosphorus improvements project. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** None.

**Administrative Comments:**

**Weishaar** said she had a concerned citizen asking about park maintenance, addressing in particular Brookside Park, and if the city had a plan in place to maintain equipment. Weishaar said over the next year the Parks Dept. budget needs to be looked at.

**Arnold** said he heard of a maintenance issue on one of the bridges and that Effinger had it taken care of the next day. Arnold commended him for being so prompt.

**Overton** asked if people drive their golf carts across Bicentennial Bridge. Effinger said yes, although they are not supposed to.

**Wood** had nothing.

**Keys** had nothing.

**Watson** had nothing.

**Cover** said he was getting complaints about utility bills. He wanted to clarify that they were being charged for the month of June, which was the hottest month of the year.

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

**Superintendents Reports:**

**Police Dept:** Anderson had nothing.

**Law Dept:** Ahler had nothing.

**Building Dept:** Davis gave update on the BZA. There was a variance of use approved for a countertop business and a variance of use for Filson Park was approved.

**Fire Dept:** Haun said the fire department has been very busy.

**Electric Dept:** Larson thanked council for the raise.

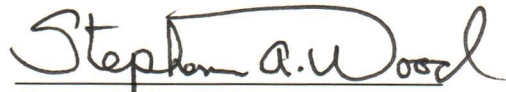
**Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage:** Black obtained a quote from Michael Todd for a walk-behind paint sprayer for \$6,408.21. There was a motion from Watson, second by Cover, to accept the quote. The motion passed unanimously. J Lockridge thanked the council for the raise. Auction is set for Friday August 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. next to the police department. Grimmer started construction on the main by the post office.

**Cemetery Dept:** Baltes thanked council for the raise.

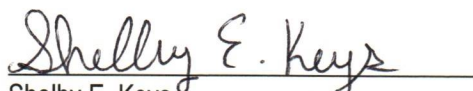
**Gas Dept:** C. Lockridge thanked council for the raise. C. Lockridge said they have been without a pipe trailer for a year. Reached out to 3 different companies for a quote, only heard back from one. Sweetwater has a trailer and with all options and shipping it would be \$18,263.42. Weishaar asked if there was funds available? C. Lockridge said yes. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to accept the quote for \$18,263.42. The motion passed unanimously.

**Park Dept:** Effinger said soccer started last weekend. The pool is closed for the year but water aerobics is going on until the end of the week.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Cover, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:

  
Shelby E. Keys  
Clerk-Treasurer