

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
October 9, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on September 25, 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 Lisa Ulrich with the Church of the Nazarene and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Shelby Keys; Council Members Russ Overton, Kevin Arnold, Noelle Weishaar, George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; 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, Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson, Asst. Street Supt. Bryce Black, Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge, Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge.

Also in attendance were Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Garrett Welker and Jeff Rayburn.

The minutes of the September 25, 2023 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions: There were none.

Ordinance 20-2023, 2024 City Budget: Keys presented the proposed budget.

Fund	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
Casino/Riverboat Fund	\$ 31,205.00	\$ 0.00	0.0000
Rainy Day	10,000.00	0.00	0.0000
LOIT Special Distribution	0.00	0.00	0.0000
General	4,116,198.00	1,669,895.00	0.7042
Debt Payment	110,069.00	105,814.00	0.0446
Local Income Tax	471,500.00	0.00	0.0000
Local Road & Street	50,471.00	0.00	0.0000
Motor Vehicle Highway	571,681.00	200,000.00	0.0843
Law Enforcement Continuing Education	10,000.00	0.00	0.0000
Cumulative Capital Improvement	50,000.00	0.00	0.0000
Cumulative Capital Development	241,146.00	119,120.00	0.0427
Economic Development Income Tax	260,543.00	0.00	0.0000
Redevelopment General	31,000.00	8,000.00	0.0034
American Rescue Plan	530,230.00	0.00	0.0000

There was a motion by Cover, second by Overton, to adopt Ordinance 20-2023, the 2024 Budget as presented. Roll call vote: Cover-yes, Watson-yes, Overton-yes, Arnold-yes, Weishaar-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 43-2023, Gas Tracker: C. Lockridge stated the gas tracker reflects a 21¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 44-2023, Transfer of Funds: Keys read requests for transfer of funds. There was a motion made by Arnold, second by Cover, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: None.

Administrative Comments:

Cover thanked Baltes. He walks the cemetery every day and said the workers stay busy.

Watson said the gas regulator station by McDonald's looks good.

Keys said the salary ordinance needs passed by November 1st. She suggested to put a committee together of the mayor, two council members and herself to hear requested changes. Watson and Arnold volunteered for the committee.

Wood had nothing.

Overton asked Baltes if the cemetery water has been shut off for the season. Baltes said yes.

Arnold said he's continued to research budgets further. There is a need for a capital and operational utility budgets. He would like Alex Hilt from Baker Tilly to come to a future council meeting to present. Arnold commended C. Lockridge for the report she sends to council with different items the Gas Dept. does throughout the month.

Weishaar asked if the Van Rensselaer St. work was close to wrapping up? J. Lockridge said they are still waiting on certain parts, but all the services are complete and the main is installed. Weishaar congratulated Larson on his award.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said he will have an officer position opening up.

Law Dept: Ahler said a lawsuit was filed on October 5th regarding the Front St. property. An amendment to the zoning ordinance that was prepared by Davis was handed out to council. This ordinance will be formally introduced at an upcoming meeting. The Plan Commission approved it by a 6-0 vote on September 7th.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis said the Cloudpermit software is now available on the city website. Building permits can now be filled out online and there is another section that allows citizens to make complaints regarding code enforcements.

Fire Dept: Haun said he received a quote from Commonwealth for design work of the water main needed for the fire training tower. The quote is for \$3,900.00 and the funds are available within his budget. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the quote. The motion passed unanimously. Cover asked Haun if he has approached the township trustees for donations. Haun said as of today around \$220,000.00 has been raised. He also said the proposed training tower has now doubled in size. His last announcement was the Fire Prevention Open House on October 12th from 6-8 PM.

Electric Dept: Mayor Wood announced that Larson had been awarded the 2023 Frank R. Rudolph award. Larson hopes to have quotes for the digger truck at next council meeting.

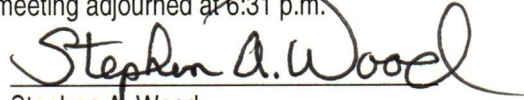
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said the recycling grant application is 1 of 19 finalists. There is a board meeting on October 26th to discuss the grant, and they are requesting he be in attendance. J. Lockridge had nothing.

Cemetery Dept: Baltes had nothing.

Gas Dept: C. Lockridge had nothing.

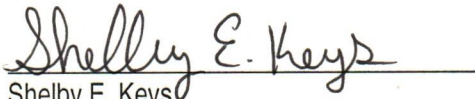
Park Dept: Effinger had nothing.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, with Overton absent, and the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



Stephen A. Wood
Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys
Clerk-Treasurer