

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
April 8, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on April 8, 2024 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.

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, Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Cemetery Caretaker Tony Baltes, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge and Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge. Electric Supt. Brett Wilhite was absent. Building Commissioner Joshua Davis arrived after roll call.

Also in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican, Cody Heldak, Jake Hofmeyer and Peggy Hofmeyer.

The minutes of the March 25, 2024 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.

Resolution 10-2024, April Gas Tracker: C. Lockridge stated the gas tracker reflects an 8¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Overton, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Swearing-In of New Police Officer: Keys performed the swearing-in of new police officer Jacob Hofmeyer.

Ordinance 09-2024, Amendment to Ordinance 05-2024 Flood Damage: Arnold said a cross-reference in the first ordinance was incorrect. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Overton, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Weishaar, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Garbage Truck Replacement Quote: Black said the city currently has 3 garbage trucks. The maintenance cost for those trucks have been substantial over the past 2 years. He received a quote from Pyramid Equipment for \$272,065 with a trade-in of a 2007 truck of \$10,000.00 for a total price of \$262,065.00. He received another quote from Best Equipment for \$290,000.00. Black suggested a loan from the water depreciation fund to the sanitation depreciation fund to be paid back in 3 years. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the quote from Pyramid Equipment utilizing a 3-year loan from the water depreciation fund. The motion passed unanimously. Keys said a resolution for the loan will be presented at the next meeting.

Redevelopment Claim: J. Lockridge said this claim for \$217,092.49 is the first pay request for the brick streets project. This covers mobilization, sidewalk and brick removal, traffic control, and water main work. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Watson, to approve the claim. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations Request: Keys requested \$200.00 from the public relations fund for an employee's retirement party. There was a motion by Overton, second by Weishaar, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said he met with Amtrak and CSX. CSX would like the city to consider closing crossings due to safety issues. If we consider closing a crossing, they could financially assist in updates to the current Amtrak station.

Keys said she has hired Chrissy Martin. Auditors with the Indiana State Board of Accounts will be starting their audit on Monday.

Watson had nothing.

Rayburn had nothing.

Weishaar said the council needs to interview applicants for a school board member opening. The appointment starts on July 1st and is a 4-year appointment. She would like to start advertising in the paper and on the city website. Applications are due May 10th.

Overton had nothing.

Arnold thanked Carol and Heather for the monthly reports they send out. He thinks it's great and would like to see other departments do the same.

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 unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said Officer Hofmeyer will have a lot of training over the next few weeks.

Law Dept: Sammons said he has been looking over policies, resolutions, and ordinances.

Utility Office: Smart said they are working to set up a sanitation depreciation fund.

Building Dept: Davis thanked the Electric Dept. for assisting with getting a hanging piece of metal off a roof.

Fire Dept: Haun said they have received FAA approval for the training tower. Delivery of the tower will be mid-May. He also has town-wide yard sale applications. Arnold asked how much money Haun has raised for the tower. Haun said \$305,000.00.

Electric Dept: Wilhite was absent.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said they are getting ready to start the water main for the fire training tower. Clean-up week is May 6th-10th.

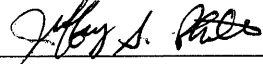
Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge said the painting of the water tower has started.

Gas Dept: C. Lockridge said gave a reminder of the open house on April 26th. She said they had a 2-day audit, with no violations. Lastly, she will find out about the open house grant on April 23rd.

Cemetery Dept: Baltes had nothing.

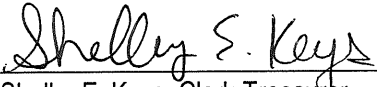
Park Dept: Effinger said Friday they will be unloading trees for the RUFC. Watson asked when baseball games will start. Effinger said they have some scheduled for April 20th, but he thinks they may cancel.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer