

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
July 8, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on July 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 an invocation offered by Debbie Voss and 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; Building Commissioner Josh Davis, Park Supt. Joe Effinger, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart, Lead Line Foreman Garrett Welker, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge, and Gas Admin Angie Haun. Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge was absent.

Also, in attendance were: Bob Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Greg Whaley, Stace Pickering, Chris and Rhonda Murphy, Keith Arnett, and Cody Heldak.

The minutes of the June 24, 2024 regular council meeting were presented There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Weishaar, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments and Petitions:

Utility Financial Reports: Eric Walsh with Baker Tilly presented financials management reports for the Gas, Electric, Water, Sewer and Sanitation utilities. There was no recommended rate increase for Gas or Electric, but rate increases were recommended for Water, Sewer and Sanitation.

Oktoberfest Request: Stace Pickering said Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, September 28th and requested the use of Van Rensselaer Street from Washington to Harrison. Watson asked what the plan was if the streets are not ready. Pickering said Filson Park is the backup. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Overton, to allow the street closing for Oktoberfest contingent on the street project being complete. There motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 16-2024, Gas Tracker: A. Haun stated the gas tracker reflects a 3¢ decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Overton, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 17-2024, Transfer of Funds: Keys read a transfer of funds within the General Fund for \$3,000.00. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Arnold, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Brick Streets Pay App #4: J. Lockridge said this pay request is for \$305,681.29 and covers removal of sidewalk and curbs, excavation work, curb/ramp/driveway installation, video inspection of the sewer, electrical conduit and light pole foundations. There is also a change order within the project for \$25,299.72, due to unexpected items of concern. There was a motion by Watson, second by Weishaar, to approve the pay request. The motion passed unanimously.

EDA Brick Streets RPR Update: J. Lockridge said this would be amendment #1 to increase the RPR services for the remainder of the street project in the amount of \$18,000.00. There was a motion by Arnold, second by Watson to approve the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Phillips said Attorney Sammons is drafting an agreement between the Parks Department and the Electric Department for use of a building.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips had nothing.

Keys had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Rayburn thanked the Police, Parks and Street Departments for their help with cruise night. He had a citizen comment regarding no lights at the soccer fields at Brookside Parks. He had another citizen request that park hours be extended throughout the summer.

Weishaar had nothing.

Arnold had nothing.

Overton had nothing.

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

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said cruise night was nothing different from years past. There was one crash, one car fire, and one tree fire.

Law Dept: Sammons said he has read over the new SOP for the Police Dept. and is working on an agreement between the Electric Dept. and Parks Dept.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Davis said the Plan Commission and BZA have a meeting next Thursday. The flagpole for City Hall arrived today. An update from the July 1st Rensselaer Redevelopment Commission meeting was given.

Fire Dept: Haun said fire truck is still in the shop for pump rebuild. Tower update includes delivery of parts next week, with construction start at the end of August.

Electric Dept: Welker had nothing.

Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said bids for a new recycling truck will be presented at the next meeting. There are two Street Department employees that have started their CDL training.

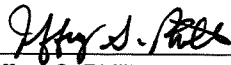
Project Coordinator: J. Lockridge said Tried and True presented their proposal in the amount of \$3500.00 for roof leak repairs at City Hall. There was a motion made by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the pay request. The motion passed unanimously.

Gas Dept: Haun had nothing.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger had nothing.

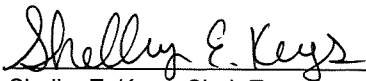
Park Dept: Effinger said there was a nice turnout for the fireworks on Thursday night and the car show was well attended with a record number of 203 cars in the show.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer