

**MINUTES OF
RENSSELAER REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monday, December 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM CT**

The Rensselaer Redevelopment Commission (RRC) held a meeting on Monday, December 2nd. Commission President Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM CT and requested Building Commissioner Davis to perform the roll call.

I. Roll Call

Present: President - Kevin Smith, Vice President - Estel George, Secretary - Jeff Webb, Commissioner - Bob Brenneman, Commissioner - Matt McAleer, School Board Rep - Janice Deno, City Attorney - Todd Sammons, and Building Commissioner (BC) - Joshua Davis.

Absent: Clerk-Treasurer - Shelby Keys

Guests: Mayor Phillips and Secretary Krystal Bassett

II. Previous Minutes

President Smith presented the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2024. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Webb, seconded by Brenneman. **Motion Passed**

III. Claims

BC Davis presented four (4) claims to the RRC. George made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Webb. **Motion Passed**

IV. Old Business

BC Davis invited the Commissioners to ask any questions they might have concerning Baker Tilly's 2024 Annual TIF Report. Mayor Phillips inquired whether this report would be forwarded to Gateway, to which Davis responded that it would not be sent.

V. New Business

A. Introduction of RRC 05-2024 Drexel / Fairgrounds Grant for Sewage Work Improvements

BC Davis announced the RRC 05-2024 Drexel/Fairgrounds Grant, emphasizing its focus on enhancing sewage system improvements in our community. This initiative is crucial for fostering sustainable infrastructure and protecting public health.

The grant funding will be vital for upgrading and expanding the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. By strengthening our infrastructure, the goal is to enhance service reliability and efficiency for all residents.

The estimated total cost for this project is \$18 million, and without the grant, there is a risk of increasing City sewer rates by \$3-5. Additionally, this grant will be significant in ensuring the utility meets the compliance standards set by the State Board of Accounts.

VI. Public Comments

Mayor Phillips brought forward the topic of seeking federal funding from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to support local rural projects. He highlighted that these funds are available to local public agencies for a range of initiatives, such as bridges, roads, safety improvements, sidewalks, and other qualifying projects under the federal transportation highway bill. The application period opened on November 7th and will close on December 6th. Mayor Phillips indicated his plan to use this funding to build a sidewalk leading to the Fairgrounds, with Jasper County Corrections agreeing to finance a substantial portion of the costs. INDOT will manage the project, which is projected to cost between \$300,000 and \$350,000. This development is anticipated to boost economic growth in the region, enhance the visual appeal of Highway 114, and, most importantly, improve pedestrian safety along the busy highway. Following this, Mayor Phillips requested the RRC's endorsement to advance with the application process. The RRC Commissioners concurred that this initiative would significantly benefit the City and enhance community safety.

George proposed a motion to permit Mayor Phillips to proceed with the application, which was seconded by Smith. **Motion Passed**

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VII. Adjournment

Brenneman made motion to adjourn, seconded by Webb. **Motion Passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM CT.

Next Meeting: January 6th, 2024 at 5:00 PM CT

Minutes Prepared by: Krystal Bassett, Building Department Administrative Secretary