

**MINUTES OF
RENSELAER REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monday, March 2, 2026, at 5:00 PM CT**

The Rensselaer Redevelopment Commission (RRC) held a meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026. President Kevin Smith called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM CT, and the roll call was conducted.

I. Roll Call

Present:

President Kevin Smith, Commissioner Bob Brenneman, Commissioner Steve Musch, Commissioner Jeff Webb, RCSC Rep. Janice Deno, Mayor Phillips, City Attorney Todd Sammons, Building Commissioner Jacob Hall, Bldg. Dept. Admin. Asst. Maria Argueta

Absent: Matt McAleer

Guests:

Bryce Black, Bobbi Jo Sammons, Kyler Laird, Richard Greene, Deb Walker, Steve Walker, Jovita Courtney, Addy Cain, Joel Szczepanski, Jose Saavedra, Avery Walker, Nancy Studer

II. Previous Minutes

President Smith presented the minutes of the meeting held on February 2, 2026.

Motion to approve the minutes no changes were made seconded by Commissioner Webb.

Motion Approved

III. Claims

Building Commissioner Hall presented two claims:

1. Appraisal for the 7th Street lots- \$700 (which is the second appraisal)
2. Legal Services related to purchase agreements for 470 N Cullen St

Motion to approve by President Smith seconded by Musch. **Motion Approved**

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

A. RRC 03-2026 Main Street Façade Grants- Mayor Phillips

Mayor Phillips discussed a resolution restructuring the façade grant program. The previous structure included a 10% administrative fee for the Jasper County Economic Development Organization. There were concerns about upfront funding and State Board of Accounts compliance. Main Street Rensselaer will replace JCEDO as the grant administrator. The proposed resolution would move with applications being submitted through the Building Dept. The committee will continue to review the eligible applicants. The Building Dept. would send out letters to the applicants awarding them the façade grant. There would not be an administrative fee under this new structure. Mayor Phillips asked for permission to bring this process back to the City of Rensselaer. Bldg. Commissioner mentioned that this is the same resolution that was approved previously, but with no administrative fee and different organization to handle funds. Motion to approve by Brenneman, seconded by Smith. **Motion Approved.**

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B. RRC 04-2026 Sale of 7th Street Lots- Bldg. Commissioner Hall

Bldg. Commissioner Hall discussed approving the sale of the 7th Street lots. Two appraisals were received, the averages of which were:

1. Larger parcel - \$28,500
2. Smaller parcel - \$15,500

This resolution will allow the City of Rensselaer to move forward with the sale of the lots. Bldg. Commissioner Hall asked Mr. Sammons if he would like to add anything else to the resolution. Mr. Sammons' response was that a correction needed to be noted in the draft resolution document. Inadvertently there was an extra "Whereas" added in the paragraph that needs to be removed. Bldg. Commissioner asked if there were any other questions on this resolution. President Smith asked if there were any offers for Cullen St. Bldg. Commissioner answered he hasn't heard anything. President Smith asked how the City of Rensselaer will advertise the sale of Cullen St. Bldg. Commissioner Hall answered that it will be advertised on the city Facebook page and Northwest Indiana forum.

President Smith made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Brenneman.

Motion Approved as amended.

VI. Public Comments

President Smith asked if there were any public comments: Supt. Bryce Black discussed the I65 project. He mentioned the project is nearing completion and there are an estimated two weeks remaining. He also mentioned the following: water and sewer services are underway, work completed near Good Oil, Wonderland Tire and Economy Inn. The residential services have begun, and the Gas Department is still finishing up the remaining work.

VII. Adjournment

President Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Webb.

Motion Approved Meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM CT.

Next Meeting: April 6, 2026, at 5:00 PM CT

Minutes Prepared by: BD Administrative Assistant Maria Argueta.