

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
April 13, 2026**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on April 13, 2026 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 Kenin Smith 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 Jacob Hall, Cemetery Caretaker Joe Effinger, Fire Chief Kenny Haun, Police Chief Matt Anderson, Utility Office Manager Heather Smart, Manager of Electric Operations Heath Malone, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Gas Supt. Todd Wilson and Assistant Superintendent Josh Eldridge.

Park Supt Heather Hall was absent.

Also, in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson, Addy Cain, Zyan Miller, Sharon Colee, Bobbi Jo Sammons, Stace Pickering, David Wall, Tammey Lindbloom, Patti Lindahl and Megan Inskeep.

The minutes of the March 23rd, 2026 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Weishaar, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments: None.

Jasper County Community Services: There was a motion by Overton, second by Arnold, to approve a contribution to JCCS in the amount of \$12,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Appleseed: Zyan Miller discussed the ongoing challenges facing early childhood education within the state. A contribution of \$100,000.00 was requested. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Overton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

PR Fund Request: Phillips requested \$85.00 to purchase a plaque for a retiring member of the Rensselaer Redevelopment. There was a motion by Overton, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 06-2026, Gas Tracker: Wilson stated the gas tracker reflects a \$1.00 decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Overton, second by Rayburn, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 07-2026, Electric Tracker: Malone said this tracker reflects a 45¢ decrease per 1,000 kWh consumed. A motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

EV Vehicle Grant: Malone said the city is applying for a grant for an EV vehicle. If awarded, a 20% match is required. That would be about \$14,000.00 paid for by the Electric Dept.

Annual TIF Management Report: J. Hall gave an overview of the annual TIF management report and provided a copy to council.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented to council for approval. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve the claims. The motion passed by majority, with Rayburn abstaining.

Unfinished Business: None.

Administrative Comments:

Phillips said the trail and farmers market agreement have been sent to the County. They also have the joint TIF agreement to review. There were no bids for 470 N Cullen St.

Keys had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Weishaar had nothing.

Rayburn had nothing.

Arnold said going forward, contributions need to be tightened up and he would like to see a more structured approach with guidelines when businesses come and request funding.

Overton had nothing.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said staff interviews with 3 candidates will take place Wednesday. 2 candidates will be brought to the next BOPW meeting. They are beginning to tag vehicles for clean-up week.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart had nothing.

Building Dept: Hall said he is applying for an OCRA grant to assist homeowners with upgrades. Rayburn asked if there was an update on the junk store near the river as they have made promises with no progress. Hall said he would follow-up. Rayburn said Mt. Hood also seems abandoned with a large truck parked on the property.

Fire Dept Haun said the BOPW approved 5 new firefighter applications. Jasper County is doing a fire study to see if a district or territory would work better.

Electric Dept: Malone said the comcast project is going to be extensive.

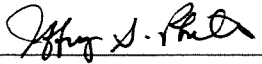
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said he had a request from Saint Augustine Church for a temporary road closure from Susan Street between Weston and McKinley on Saturday, May 2nd from 3:00-10:00 PM for a fundraiser. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously. Projects continue to move forward. Electronics recycling day is April 25th.

Gas Dept: Wilson said the gas portion of I-65 is complete. A new hire starts Monday.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger had nothing.

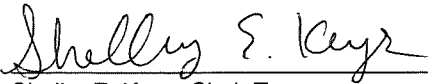
Park Dept: Cain said the pool will open on May 23rd and a pickleball tournament will be held on May 30th.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed by majority, and the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer