

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL & RENSSELAER UTILITY BOARD
May 11, 2026**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utility Board met on May 11, 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 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 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, Park Supt Heather Hall, Street/Water/Sewer/Sanitation Supt. Bryce Black, Gas Supt. Todd Wilson and Assistant Superintendent Josh Eldridge.

Also, in attendance were: Harley Tomlinson, Dotty Warrick, Barb Michal, Stace Pickering, Kyler Laird and Jill DiTommaso with Lochmueller Group.

The minutes of the April 27th, 2026 regular council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Rayburn, second by Watson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments: Dotty Warrick said she is having issues with feral cats and neighbors feeding them near Swartzel Drive. She was advised to work with the police.

ADA/Title 6 Review: Jill with Lochmueller Group said they are updating documents for ADA. The agreement is not to exceed \$2,100.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Overton, to allow the mayor to sign the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 09-2026, Gas Tracker: Wilson stated the gas tracker reflects a 41¢ increase per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Overton, second by Weishaar, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

PR Fund Request: Phillips said this is the 10th year for artists visiting town and painting murals. He requested up to \$500.00 to purchase dinner for this year's artists. There was a motion by Watson, second by Rayburn, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously. Phillips said this year's city picnic will be Friday, July 24th and he is requesting up to \$2,500.00. There was a motion by Watson, second by Arnold, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

7th Street Road Acceptance: Eldridge said 1 block of 7th Street needs added into the road inventory and requested permission for Mayor Phillips to sign INDOT documents. There was a motion by Weishaar, second by Watson, to approve adding the streets and allowing the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

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 reminded everyone how much work clean-up week is and that service may need to be re-evaluated in the future.

Keys had nothing.

Watson said great job on clean-up week.

Weishaar thanked everyone for clean-up week.

Rayburn said it was great to see Blacker Fields utilized but felt it was very disrespectful some teams were using the cemetery to practice.

Arnold said he spent some time with crews during clean-up week and it's great to see the employee comradery.

Overton said good job on clean-up week.

Superintendents Reports:

Police Dept: Anderson said the BOPW made a conditional offer to a current Dyer police officer.

Law Dept: Sammons had nothing.

Utility Office: Smart said utility financials will be ready soon.

Building Dept: Hall said he got a demo permit from 225 N. Scott St.

Fire Dept Haun said the fish fry was a huge success serving 800 people in 3 hours.

Electric Dept: Malone said all linemen are Class A CDL certified.

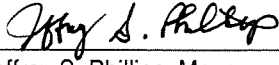
Street, Sanitation, Water and Sewage: Black said the first phase of the LSL project is winding down. 7th Street is almost done. There is a special BOPW meeting scheduled for May 18th. Eldridge said CCMG work starts next Monday on Front St. The next CCMG call is in September. Totals from clean-up week are: 8 boxes of electronics, 68.85 tons of brush, 47.25 tons of yard waste, 84 tires, 12 loads of metal and 193 tons of trash. They made 24 trips to the landfill Monday-Friday.

Gas Dept: Wilson had nothing.

Cemetery Dept: Effinger said they are preparing for Memorial Day weekend.

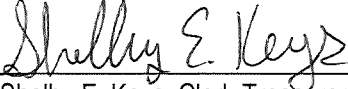
Park Dept: Hall said the trail head at Brookside will be poured this week and May 30th is a pickleball tournament.

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 6:41 p.m.



Jeffrey S. Phillips, Mayor

Attest:



Shelby E. Keys, Clerk-Treasurer