

IN
COMMON COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY EVENING *July 22* 1936
Special order
REGULAR MEETING

ALDERMEN	AYES	NOES
T. CLARK	✓	
G. HAYFORD	✓	
W. HOOKKAMP	✓	
J. DISTELL	✓	
D. WHALEN	✓	
F. RAYMOND	✓	
REDDEN	✓	
F. WHISH	✓	
E. WAUGH	✓	
W. PRATT	✓	
TOTAL		

The Council convened at 9 - o'clock P. M. and was called to order by Pres. Clark.

The roll being called the following answered to their names.

Pres. Clark

Alderman Hayford	Alderman Raymond	
Hoogkamp	Redden	Hoogkamp
Distell	Whish	
Whalen	Alderman Pratt	Waugh

Alderman Moved that the minutes be adopted as printed subject to correction

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND CITY OFFICES.

The Clerk reports that the Mayor had approved of all resolutions passed at the last meeting of the board.

Treasurers report
Charity Commissioners report

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
REMONSTRANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS.

Alderman moved that all bills be referred to the auditing committee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The auditing committee reported the following bills correct.

Alderman moved that the report of the auditing committee be received and all bills be allowed and ordered paid Also the street pay roll.

Waugh Whish 50. 9 C 50. C C 110. City for

City Club Com Asst 50. Jan. 1936

ALDERMEN	AYES	NOES
T. CLARK		✓
G. HAYFORD	✓	
W. HOOKKAMP		✓
J. DISTELL	✓	
D. WHALEN		✓
F. RAYMOND		✓
REDDEN		✓
F. WHISH	✓	
E. WAUGH	✓	
W. PRATT		✓
TOTAL		

Whalen Budget Line

adopt over may or vote

Exhibit 260 Post due can

be charge for 43151.74 to

43,782.19

Waugh Whish (1) 50. Jan. C. 300. with salary returned Piller - 21000

Post

Adopt Budget

ALDERMEN AYES NOES

ALDERMEN	AYES	NOES
T. CLARK	✓	
G. HAYFORD	✓	
W. HOOGKAMP		✓
J. DISTELL	✓	
D. WHALEN		✓
F. RAYMOND		✓
REDDEN	✓	✓
F. WHISH	✓	
E. WAUGH	✓	
W. PRATT	✓	
TOTAL		

Dist.

amend
Wait

Pratt that 500. is included in recreation
for attend art. at City field.
Pratt wants to amend to take another vote on
amendment.

Adopt Budget

ALDERMEN AYES NOES

ALDERMEN	AYES	NOES
T. CLARK	✓	
G. HAYFORD		✓
W. HOOGKAMP		✓
J. DISTELL	✓	
D. WHALEN	✓	
F. RAYMOND	✓	
REDDEN	✓	✓
F. WHISH		✓
E. WAUGH		✓
W. PRATT		✓
TOTAL		

ALDERMEN AYES NOES

ALDERMEN	AYES	NOES
T. CLARK	✓	
G. HAYFORD	✓	
W. HOOGKAMP		✓
J. DISTELL	✓	
D. WHALEN		✓
F. RAYMOND		✓
REDDEN	✓	✓
F. WHISH	✓	
E. WAUGH	✓	
W. PRATT	✓	
TOTAL		

Dist.

whalen move to adjourn!



WILLIAM T. WRIGHT
MAYOR

CITY of RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

THE MAYOR

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

July 21st, 1936

The Common Council and
City City Clerk
Rensselaer, New York

Gentlemen:

Kindly be advised that I hereby call a special meeting of the Common Council to be held Wednesday, July 22nd, 1936 at eight o'clock P. M. for the purpose of considering and taking such action as the Common Council may deem advisable and proper with respect to the vetoes of the items of appropriation specified in my letter to the Common Council, containing such vetoes, dated July 21st, 1936.

Respectfully yours,

William T. Wright

WTW/F



HARVEY C. YOUNGHANS
CITY CLERK

CITY OF RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK
RENSSELAER, N. Y.

Rensselaer N. Y.
July 21, 1936,

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

A special meeting of the Board of Alderman of the City of Rensselaer N. Y. is called for Wednesday Evening July 22, 1936, at the City Building for 7-30 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of re-considering the 1936-1937 City Budget.

Resp Yours

William T. Wright

Mayor.



WILLIAM T. WRIGHT
MAYOR

CITY of RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

THE MAYOR

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

July 22nd, 1936

The Common Council and
The City Clerk
Rensselaer, New York

Gentlemen:

Kindly be advised that I hereby veto and return resolution No. 372 relating to the rating and assessment of the City and School Taxes for the fiscal year commencing August 1, 1936.

Very truly yours,

William T. Wright

WTW/F



MELVIN H. SMITH
WELFARE COMMISSIONER

CITY OF RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

WELFARE COMMISSIONER

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

1936
JULY
22

Hon. Mayor, President and
Members of Common Council,
Rensselaer,
New York.

Gentlemen:

It is my understanding that the Mayor has vetoed the Budget as passed at your last meeting, and that a special meeting has been called for tonight to reconsider same. As Commissioner of Public Welfare, I would respectfully ask that you reconsider the budget for the Welfare Department. The budget as it now stands consists of the following:-

Salary	1500.00	
Traveling Expenses	100.00	
Bond	10.00	
	<u>1610.00</u>	\$1610.00
Burials	500.00	
Groceries,		
Coal & Shoes	15000.00	
Mothers Club	400.00	
	<u>15900.00</u>	\$15900.00
Poor in		
Institutions	<u>10000.00</u>	<u>10000.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$27510.00

If possible I should like the following changes made in the above:-

Salary	1500.00	
Traveling Expenses for	100.00	
Attending State		
Convention	50.00	
Bond	10.00	
	<u>1660.00</u>	1660.00



MELVIN H. SMITH
WELFARE COMMISSIONER

CITY OF RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

WELFARE COMMISSIONER

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

Hon. Mayor, President and Members of Common Council-----2

		Forward	1660.00
Burials	500.00		
Groceries, Coal and Shoes	12500.00		
Mothers Club	400.00		
	<u>13400.00</u>		13400.00
Poor in Institutions	12000.00		<u>12000.00</u>
		TOTAL	\$27060.00

Upon making up the budget last August, I was not consulted, with the result that the City of Rensselaer owed approximately \$7000.00 in outstanding bills, for which there was no money available to pay. These bills were contracted by my predecessors. Therefore the \$10,000.00 allotted to hospitalization was insufficient, and at the present time we owe approximately \$5000.00.

Hoping that you will give this matter your earnest consideration, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Melvin H. Smith

Melvin H. Smith,
Welfare Commissioner

MHS:MHS

L A V E R N E O R V I S
A T T O R N E Y & C O U N S E L L O R A T L A W
7 5 S T A T E S T R E E T
A L B A N Y , N E W Y O R K

C O R P O R A T I O N C O U N S E L
C I T Y O F R E N S S E L A E R , N . Y .

July 22nd, 1936

Mayor William T. Wright
Rensselaer, New York

Dear Mayor:

Please be advised that I hereby protest the action of the Common Council taken at its last regular meeting wherein it caused three items included in your proposed budget relating to the conduct of the affairs of my department. As you know, the Common Council reduced the appropriation for witnesses and experts from \$ 800.00 to \$500.00. The appropriation for purchase of transcripts of Court testimony and printing of records from \$500.00 to \$100.00 and the appropriation for typewriting from \$400.00 to \$100.00. My objections are as follows:

Witnesses and Experts

At the present time we have a number of personal injury and property damage claims pending against the City involving many thousands of dollars. We have about a dozen certiorari actions already pending and from eight to twelve more actions threatened to be instituted in connection with the City and School and State and County assessments. Since assuming my position in 1932, I have devoted considerable time in taking advantage of proceedings not heretofore resorted to by my predecessors in an effort to gain important advantages in connection with claims filed and actions instituted against the City. I feel that I have had very good success in these matters. However, the actions which must be tried out, and we have a number of these now pending, often require the services of physicians, mechanics and other expert witnesses if the City's interests are to be safe-guarded in the same manner as any other individual or corporation would demand. The amount which I requested is far from being sufficient to dispose of all of the pending actions and proceedings but in view of the attitude of the present Common Council, I requested an amount which I believed to be the absolute minimum amount on which my department in this respect can be operated. I have examined into the budgets for more than the last fifteen years and I find that up until the time I assumed office the amount appropriated

LAVERNE ORVIS
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW
75 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

CORPORATION COUNSEL
CITY OF RENSSELAER, N. Y.

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for this purpose varied from between \$3000.00 and \$4500.00 per year. Since that time it has been reduced to \$500.00.

Printing of Court Records and Transcripts of Testimony

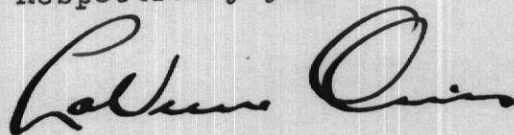
I requested the appropriation of \$500.00 for this purpose. The same situation prevails with respect to this item as with respect to the question of experts and witnesses. I have no control over the number and extent of claims filed and actions instituted against the City except as heretofore outlined. If the Common Council refuses to appropriate the moneys for this purpose, I cannot proceed to trial with a single certiorari action disregarding all other actions and proceedings which maybe instituted and prosecuted during the year. This will mean that persons suing the City will take judgment by default.

Typewriting

I believe that I can safely say that the past five years have been the busiest years in the history of my department. The reason is primarily caused by the depression. It would seem unnecessary to go into detail concerning this matter. I merely wish to call your attention to the fact that for a period of more than the last fifteen years up to the budget of 1934, this item was continued at \$400.00 and at that time reduced to \$100.00. This amount is wholly inadequate and insufficient.

I respectfully urge that you veto each of the foregoing reductions proposed by the Common Council and recommend the restoration of the amounts originally estimated and submitted.

Respectfully yours,



LO/DF



WILLIAM T. WRIGHT
MAYOR

CITY of RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

THE MAYOR

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

July 22nd, 1936

The Common Council of the
City of Rensselaer
Rensselaer, New York

Gentlemen:

Kindly be advised that I hereby veto and return your revised budget estimate for the fiscal year commencing August 1st, 1936 insofar as the following items are concerned:

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amt. App.</u>	<u>Amt. Rec.</u>
Port	Albany Port Dist. Comm. (Assessment) No. 260	\$43,151.74	\$43,782.19 ✓
Rdice	Police and Fire (Patrolmens' salaries) No. 130-A	21,700.00	25,300.00 ✓
Streets	Highway Repairs (Labor for maintenance and repairs) No. 181-A	16,840.80	21,000.00 ✓
Recreation	Recreation (Coyne Mem. Field) No. 231	None	300.00
Legal	Corporation Counsel (Typewriting	400.00	400.00
	Witnesses and experts	500.00	800.00
	Printing and Court minutes	100.00	400.00
Vacations	Com.. Assess. and Taxation, yacation	none	50.00
	City Clerk vacation fund	50.00	50.00
	City Judge " "	110.00	60.00

The proposed budget for the next fiscal year which I submitted, was submitted only after careful analysis of the requests of the various heads of departments. It is my desire to cooperate with your Council to the fullest extent in effecting any fair and honest relief for the taxpayers. I have vetoed the foregoing items believing it to be to the best interest and in accordance with the wishes of our residents for the following reasons:

Albany Port District Commission. The budget as adopted by the Port Commission amounts to \$40,151.66. In addition, we are required to raise an extra assessment of \$3630.53 as the result of the Port Commission receiving less than the full amount of its estimated revenues from port operations this year. The total amount requested by the Commission is \$43,782.19. This is \$631.45 more than appropriated.



WILLIAM T. WRIGHT
MAYOR

CITY of RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

THE MAYOR

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

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Highway Department

I recommend an appropriation of \$21,000.00 which is the minimum amount upon which this department can function to any reasonable extent. That the amount appropriated is not sufficient is obvious from the following facts:

- (a) That for a number of years past the expenditures in this department have varied from \$26,000.00 to \$43,000.00.
- (b) For the present fiscal year you appropriated and there has been expended between \$23,000.00 and \$24,000.00.
- (c) That this year's amount was insufficient is further evidenced by the fact that the department has been compelled on different occasions to shut down and by the fact that it has not had sufficient money to properly repair and maintain the streets and by the fact that the men are working only part time.

The reduction as proposed will result in even greater inconvenience and annoyance and ultimate expense because of inadequate highway maintenance.

Police and Fire

Chapter 901 of the Laws of 1935 reduced the hours of service of our 12 patrolmen from an average of approximately 64 to 48 hours per week. This is equivalent to 4 new men. I recommended such an amount as would permit the addition of two more patrolmen. In an effort to help minimize the effect of such change, the Board of Public Safety closed the lower precinct. The present number of patrolmen is not sufficient to enable this department to adequately and properly police the city.

Recreation

Your Common Council has invested many thousands of dollars in the new Coyne Memorial Athletic Field. At your direction an attendant, has assisted in conditioning the field until recently when the fund became depleted. Two new tennis courts will soon be opened to the public and these likewise will need constant attention. I recommend for your consideration the inclusion of these amounts of \$300.00 for the services of such an attendant.



WILLIAM T. WRIGHT
MAYOR

CITY of RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

THE MAYOR

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

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Legal Department

I am attaching hereto a communication from the corporation counsel concerning the omission of the amount which he has estimated as being necessary to carry out the functions of his department. In order that actions against the city involving many times the amount of these items be properly defended and the city's best interests adequately safeguarded, this department should not be hampered by lack of funds. I recommend the reconsideration of your omission of these items.

Commissioner of Assessment and Taxation, City Clerk, City Judge

Your council has voted a vacation fund for the City Clerk and has increased the City Court fund so as to permit the City Judge to arrange for a substitute for a matter of 22 working days. Yet it has omitted the item of \$50.00 included for the purpose of enabling the Commissioner of Assessment and Taxation to take a two week vacation. I also call to your attention that in addition to cutting his salary \$300.00 last year, your council saw fit to eliminate the services of his assistant. I recommend similar treatment for all three officers either by the inclusion or the rejection of each of the following items: \$50.00 each in both the City Clerk and Commissioner of Assessment and Taxation's funds and the sum of \$60.00 in the City Court fund for this purpose.

City Engineer

Not only has there been a heavy demand for time of the City Engineer, not only has he been caused to work with an inadequate force and engineering staff and lack of funds, but his salary which was decreased \$200.00 last year has this year been still further cut to the extent of \$500.00 more. This official is a licensed engineer who devotes his full time to the duties of his office. I do not believe that it is the desire of the taxpayers that any city officer or employee not receive adequate and fair compensation and I recommend the restoration of \$500.00 of this \$700.00 reduction.

Relief, Poor in Institutions

The Commissioner of Charities recommended the inclusion of \$15,000. for this purpose. Based on the experience of the relief department this entire amount is necessary. Money for this purpose cannot be raised by bond sale. Exhaustion of the fund before the end of the fiscal year would undoubtedly mean that no further relief of this nature can be furnished and great hardship and even the otherwise unnecessary loss of life may result.



WILLIAM T. WRIGHT
MAYOR

CITY of RENSSELAER

OFFICE OF

THE MAYOR

RENSSELAER, N. Y.

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In conclusion, permit me to again urge your thoughtful re-consideration of these matters.

Respectfully yours,

William T. Wright

WTW/F