



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367
Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday June 7, 2021, 6:00 PM



Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. Present: Brian Skroch, Michelle Keller, Chris Scheel, Emily Walters, and Bobbi Caster, Office Assistant. Paula Kampa was absent.

1. Scheel made a motion to accept the agenda as presented for Monday June 7th, 2021. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Scheel made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
 - a. Approval of Park Board Meeting Minutes May 4th, 2021.
 - b. Approval of Work Session Minutes May 17th, 2021.
Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **Citizen Participation: None**
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. Janice Martin was here to discuss the agenda for The Wall That Heals coming to Rice on August 17th, 2021, through August 22nd, 2021. This event is expected to bring 10,000 to 20,000 people to Rice. Highlights include a police escort into town on the 17th, arriving approximately at 3:00 pm. The National Guard will set up the wall on the 18th which will take 6-8 hours. The welcoming ceremony will be held at 6:00 pm on the 19th. They have been approved for a fly over. A candlelight visual will be held on the night of the 20th. The Wall will be available for viewing from 12:00 am, Thursday to 2:00 pm on Sunday. They will be applying for a large gathering permit. They also will be applying for a road closure for the mobile educational semi-trailer due to its large size. They also asked if the Mayor or a Council Member would speak on the 18th when the Wall arrives and on the 19th during the welcoming ceremony.
 - b. RESOLUTION #060721-25 Resolution committing funds from Rice Family Fund Days to Rice Police and Fire Departments. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #060721-25 a Resolution committing funds from Rice Family Fund Days to Rice Police and Fire Departments. Second by Walters. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - c. RESOLUTION #060721-26 Resolution for Immaculate Conception Gambling Permit. Keller made a motion to approve Resolution #060721-26 a Resolution for Immaculate Conception Gambling Permit. Second by Walters. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - d. RESOLUTION #060721-27 Resolution committing funds from Graham Township to Rice Rec Department. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #060721-27 a Resolution committing funds from Graham Township to Rice Rec Department. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - e. Letter to council from Chief Hamann regarding Police Officer Jeremy Traut's 6-month review. He is doing an excellent job. Mayor Skroch also stated he received a letter from the American Legion thanking the police department.
 - f. The City Engineer, Clif Allen discussed Task order #1 agreement for the Pedestrian Railroad Crossing. Benton County Human Services is considering a small grant award to the City of Rice to work towards the eventual construction of a safe and effective pedestrian railroad crossing on main street. The grant is for \$8000, and the city would be required to provide a 10% minimum matching contribution. Scheel made a motion to approve Task Order #1 to provide updated planning, surveying, estimation, and conceptual design services to facilitate funding acquisition



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and subsequent construction of a pedestrian RR crossing on Main Street. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Allen then discussed Task Order #2 agreement for a 4th municipal well. It has been verified that the city is being awarded two grants from the MN Department of Health. The grants will assist in funding professional engineering and hydrogeotechnical analysis for site selection alternatives for test wells and a future production well that will provide adequate volume, be free of existing nitrate contaminants, and be close to the city system. Keller made a motion to approve Task Order #2 to provide professional engineering and hydrogeotechnical analysis for site selection of Municipal Well #4. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Allen then discussed LARP. We did not receive this grant, but it will be available soon to apply again.

- g. Police building. Dave Thene did meet Ross at the building on June 3rd to take measurements. We did not receive the bid from Dave Thene yet.
- h. Rice Day Parade regarding the city's involvement on August 21st. Scheel motioned for the city staff to organize the parade. Second by Walters. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- i. Mark Larson was here to discuss the tractor pull to be held on August 21st. He has ordered the bleachers and has the insurance certificate. He has been in touch with the Fire Department in hopes they will be able to provide a beer garden. He also suggested we set up a parking lot by the cemetery. He will continue to work with city staff to coordinate the time of the parade and the tractor pull.
- j. County 55 update. The county has started work on the south end of County Road 55. The county and the city are still disputing the language of the agreement. One landowner has rejected the offer for the easement. Clif Allen suggested we have an elected official from each party meet to go over the language of agreement.
- k. Compost and the black dirt usage. Mayor Skroch stated that there is an issue with the use of the bobcat. The city does not have a policy in place for how much dirt can be taken by each individual. He discussed two options for the remainder of this season. One being that we would no longer provide the bobcat service. The other would be a five-bucket rule per person. The council will discuss this again in the winter to have policies in place before the next season. Scheel made a motion for a five-bucket rule per person. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays, motioned carried.

5. DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE/BOARD/CONTRACTED STAFF REPORTS/UPDATE

- a. Clerks Report – Finance, Update – Andrew Smooley – 717 8th Ave SW, snowplow damage was fixed on 5-21-21. I contacted him and confirmed that he is happy with the fix. Summer ball program started tonight at 5:30 pm. Gene is still in need of volunteers. Adjustments were made to water bills this month on the cellular meters. They were calculating at .1 when they should have been calculating at .01. This issue as been fixed and will not be a problem moving forward. Presented revenue and expenditure financial reports to see if these were the reports the Council would like to see and asked how often they would like them. The council asked if we could discuss next meeting when Kampa will be present.

6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

- a. June 21st, 2021, City Council Meeting 6 PM
- b. June 28th, 2021, Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- c. July 6th, 2021, City Council Meeting 6 PM
- d. July 6th, 2021, Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- e. July 19th, 2021, City Council Meeting 6 PM
- f. July 26th, 2021, Planning Commission 7 PM

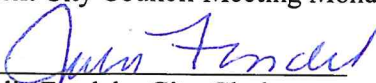


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7. **Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Walters made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
8. **Adjourn:** Walters made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:08 PM. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting Monday June 21st, 2021, 6 PM.


Julie Fandel – City Clerk


Brian Skroch, Mayor