



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367
Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday October 18th, 2021, 6:00 PM



Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Present: Brian Skroch, Chris Scheel, Emily Walters, Paula Kampa, Julie Fandel, City Clerk and Bobbi Caster, Office Assistant. Absent: Michelle Keller

1. Scheel made a motion to accept the agenda as presented for Monday October 18th, 2021. Second by Walters. Skroch added to Business f. Mark Sauer letter, g. Dale Hiscock letter and added to Clerks Report b. closed meeting for personnel public works, c. job posting approval. Scheel amended his motion, Walters amended her second. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Kampa made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
 - a. Approval of Park Board Meeting August 23rd, 2021
 - b. Approval of City Council Meeting October 4th, 2021
 - c. Approval of Interview Meeting October 12th, 2021Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **Citizen Participation:** Diane Wojtanowicz, concerned about neighbor dumping into pond on County Rd. 21 and trash being burned. She believes they are infringing on her Prairie Farm property. She will raise her concerns under business c.
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. Fire Contracts, Fandel presented the contracts and reminded council the Townships have been informed of the changes. The tax capacity is correct now. Kampa asked when the Townships will meet again. Fandel said she believes in December. Scheel made a motion to approve the Langola and Graham fire contracts as presented. Second by Kampa. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.
 - b. Resolution 101821-33 a resolution committing funds from Benton Cooperative Telephone Company to the Rice Fire Department. Kampa made a motion to approve Resolution 101821-33 a resolution committing funds from Benton Cooperative Telephone Company to the Rice Fire Department in the amount of \$12,000.00. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.
 - c. Andrew Wojtanowicz – Neighbor concern. Andrew and Diane have a concern about the same neighbor who is dumping items from their tree trimming business onto a property adjacent to each of theirs. They also believe that the individual is over the property lines while he is burning and that he is dumping into the pond. The business is not located at the property however he is bringing items from his business onto the property and burning it. The property is zoned Agricultural. Andrew would like the City of Rice to do something since the property is in the city limits. Chief Hamann did investigate, and the property owner was cited for having a fire during the burning ban. As far as the dumping and storing of junk on the property it would be a civil issue. Andrew has reached out to Benton County Development and the DNR. Chief Hamann stated that if they are burning



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again, to reach out to the police department so they can make sure the person has the proper permits.

- d. Updates by Mayor Skroch – Samples from the irrigation wells will be in the spring. The 4th Street project will receive the 2nd coat of pavement tomorrow. The adjacent turf and seeding will cost approximately \$2,000 and public works said the most cost-effective way will be to have Burski handle it. We received some information from the Railroad regarding the Pedestrian RR crossing. The pedestrian arm will cost in excess of \$250K, the sliding gate would be between \$125K - \$150K, and the lowest option would be \$100K. These numbers do not include engineering fees. The letter of intent is due November 1st, 2021, for construction of either years 2023-2024 or 2024-2025. Kampa did some research and found that a swing door with fencing along the sidewalk would be very cost effective but doesn't know if the RR would approve. Most of the cost comes from the RR approval and overseeing the project. Kampa motioned to proceed with the letter of intent for the pedestrian RR crossing. Second by Scheel. Fandel asked to have the safe route to school added. Kampa amended her motion, Scheel amended his second. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.
- e. Newsletter – Scheel made a motion to approve the newsletter. Second by Walters. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried. Kampa would like to wait until the Chamber of Commerce has its meeting on Wednesday, October 20th to see if they will be sponsoring a trick or treat this year so it can be added to the newsletter.
- f. Mark Sauer letter – Skroch motioned to approve Mark Sauer's resignation letter from Public Works. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.
- g. Dale Hiscock letter – Kampa motioned to approve Dale Hiscock's resignation letter from the Fire Department. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried. Chief Janski would like to have a retirement party for Dale. Council stated that the Fire Department would have to host it.

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

- A. Clerks Report – Mark Schraut from Mark's Carburetor will be selling within the year, and he would like to sell his building to a brewery. Fandel did some research and found out that a brewer's license is different than a Liquor license so this could be a possibility. Chris Byrd from Benton County reached out and the county will not continue to sweep our streets for the city next year. They have been doing this since 2008 but will not be able to anymore. Stormwater money could be used to purchase or rent a street sweeper. Spring will be the next time it is needed. The letter of Intent for the TA Grant for Fox Meadows trail has been submitted. Chris Byrd from the County will be the City's sponsor. Also spoke with Monty who would like to meet next year to in regards to extending the trail to bend in the river. He thought the County and the City could apply together as it will be easy to tie into the rest of Hwy 55. Fandel is on vacation from 10/19 – 10/26.

Closed Meeting – Scheel made a motion to close the meeting per statute 13D.05, Subd. 3. Second by Kampa. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.



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- B. Personnel public works
- C. Job posting approval

Scheel made a motion to close the closed session at 7:54 pm. Second by Kampa. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

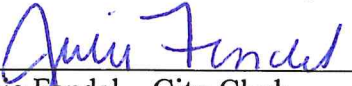
6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:


- a. October 25th, 2021, Special Council Meeting 5 PM
- b. November 1st, 2021, Work Session 5 PM
- c. November 1st, 2021, City Council Meeting 6 PM
- d. November 2nd, 2021, Park Board Meeting 6 PM
- e. November 15th, 2021, Work Session 5 PM
- f. November 29th, 2021 Planning Commission 7 PM

7. Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers: Walters made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

8. Adjourn: Kampa made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:56 PM. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting November 1st, 2021, 6 PM.


Julie Fandel – City Clerk


Brian Skroch, Mayor