



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367
Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes



Monday January 9th, 2023, 6:00 PM

ADMINISTER OATHS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS – City Clerk Julie Fandel administers the Oath of Office to Mayor Brian Skroch, City Council Chairs Paula Kampa and Ken Nodo.

Mayor Skroch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present: Brian Skroch, Chris Scheel, Michelle Keller, Paula Kampa, Ken Nodo, Clif Allen and Chris Sonmor, Moore Engineer, Bobbi Caster, Office Assistant, and Julie Fandel, City Clerk.

1. Kampa made a motion to accept the agenda as presented for Monday January 9th, 223. Second by Scheel. 5 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 November 1st, 2022.
 - b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes December 12th, 2022.Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

3. **Citizen Participation:** None.

4. **BUSINESS**

- a. Gene Thomsen Rice Rec Update – Gene started open gyms and opened the skating rink. Hockey day is January 28th, 2023, it will run for three hours this year. They will serve hot dogs and hot chocolate. He will be out for surgery in the first part of February but would like to start pickle ball. The cost for each set is \$235-\$275 and he would like to start with two sets. Kampa asked who would run it, Gene said his group of kids this year really want to work, and they can. He is thinking of having two options, one for kids from 6:30 to 7:30 for \$2.00, and one for adults from 7:30 to 9:30 for \$5.00. Scheel said he was happy Gene was trying something new, good job!
- b. 2023 Annual Fee Schedule/Appointments/Salary Schedule – Skroch went over the fees, appointments, and salary line by line and council discussed each category. Scheel made a motion to approve the 2023 Fee Schedule. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Kampa made a motion to approve 2023 Salary Schedule with name corrections. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- c. RESOLUTION #010923-01 a Resolution Committing and Transferring Funds – Kampa made a motion to approve Resolution 010923-01 to transfer committed funds for 2022. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- d. RESOLUTION #010923-02 a Resolution to Maintain the Railroad Crossing and Connection for its useful life. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution 010923-02 to approve the maintenance of the railroad crossing and connection for its useful life. Second by Nodo. Allen explained that the grant we are applying for is a safety device, it is for the maze fence or the arms. The railroad has stated that with the arms the city would pay a yearly maintenance charge. The estimate currently is between \$5,500.00 - \$6,000.00 per year. Sonmor stated he felt this was very high and unpredictable without any details. Skroch stated that he does not think that we can do that every year, for the life of the project. Jenny Lezer stated that if we applied for the grant with this resolution, we would not be committed to go this route or pay this. Kampa stated that she was checking into some of the railroad items and was told that they are being looked at in congress due to them not giving quotes and not disclosing rates. Kampa clarified with Lezer that if we pass this resolution we can still change and not be responsible for the maintenance, Lezer confirmed. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- e. RESOLUTION #010923-03 a Resolution Supporting Transportation Alternatives Project. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution Supporting Transportation Alternatives Project for \$48,530.16. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- f. Tri-County Humane Society Contract Kampa made a motion to accept Tri-County Humane Society contract. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- g. Bid for Publishing Local Government Legal Items 2023. Nodo made a motion to accept the Sauk Rapids Herald as the paper for the City's legal publications. Second by Keller. Scheel pointed out that one price was



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\$9.90, and one was \$9.92. Nodo amended his motion to approve up to \$9.92. Keller amended her second. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

- h. Moore Engineering – Allen and Sonmor presented information for highway 10 and industrial park improvements. There was discussion on funding and Moore feels that with the \$17 billion that there will be funding for projects. They would like to start looking at the options. This intersection is a safety concern and that may help to get a 50/50 match. The city's 50% could come from MNDOT or the county as well. Sonmor said that if we are not interested that is ok. He is just trying to get what we are interested in moving forward with. Scheel made a motion for Moore to move ahead with the TH10 project. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Sonmor stated that the next item is a letter to update on what we have worked on this year and what next year looks like as far as rates. Sonmor is very transparent and likes to let everyone know what is happening and changing. Task Order #5 is to start the process of getting the permits for the pedestrian crossing. Nodo asked about the two different costs, Sonmor clarified that it would be both costs. If \$20,000 is less, we will be charging less too. We just do not have a good number currently. Kampa stated that these are the same numbers Moore presented before too. Scheel made a motion to approve task Order #5. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Allen went into a discussion on paving, we need to start to consider what you want to do. We did the street project, which graded the streets but have not done anything since. We can do chip coating in some of the neighborhoods to at least maintain some of what we have. Nodo stated that we need to do something. Allen also stated that the city needs an assessment policy, for both commercial and residential. Skroch asked if the council would be ok if the Planning Commission started working on that policy. Scheel asked to have samples sent to us as a starting place. The council agreed that we should move forward.

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

Clerks Report – Liquor licenses are all out and good. February 6th to 9th, Bobbi is on vacation, February, March, and April I have jury duty and February 6th and 7th, the auditor will be here. I have talked to her about the possibility of changing the dates and she is fine.

6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

- a. January 23rd, 2023 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- b. January 30th, 2023 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- c. February 6th, 2022 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- d. February 7th, 2023 - Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- e. February 20th, 2023 – Office Closed – President's Day
- f. February 21st, 2023 – City Council Meeting
- g. February 27th, 2023 – Planning Committee Meeting

7. **Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Keller made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

8. **Adjourn:** Kampa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting January 23rd, 2023, 6 PM.


Julie Fandel – City Clerk


Brian Skroch, Mayor