



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367
Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday February 6th, 2023, 6:00 PM



Mayor Skroch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present: Brian Skroch, Chris Scheel, Paula Kampa, Ken Nodo, Clif Allen and Chris Sonmor, Moore Engineers, Julie Fandel, City Clerk, and Steve Wollak, Public Works. Absent Michelle Keller

1. Scheel made a motion to accept the agenda as presented for Monday February 6th, 2023. Second by Nodo. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Kampa made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
 - a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes January 23rd, 2023.
Second by Scheel. Nodo said that he would like to discuss the Annual Appointments and move consent agenda to Business g. 0 ayes 4 nays, motion failed.
3. **Citizen Participation:** None.
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. City Wide Garbage Update – Fandel reported that the state statues are still the same, the haulers meet and set a price. Nodo asked how many carries there in Rice are, there is no way of knowing unless you walked around and counted. At this time, we will just wait to see if we get a petition for that.
 - b. Resolution #020623-06 Approving lawful gambling for the Knights of Columbus. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #020623-06 Approving lawful gambling for the Knights of Columbus. Second by Nodo. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - c. Moore Engineering – Sonmor presented the information requested for the industrial park and gateway road changes. This entire project can be divided into smaller projects, Allen said for example Cty. Rd 21 and the entry to highway 10 is an important part. Nodo asked if they had spoken to MNDOT, Allen explained that we have been in contact with them and PFG on that portion of the road. Nodo stated that he thinks it's a good project, but we are late to the game, he has experience, and we should have been lobbying for this already. Allen and Sonmor stated that they have consultants at the capital. Scheel stated that this whole concept started years ago, and Benton County was in the discussion. It's been a hot bed for a long time, so MNDOT is also aware of it. Scheel said that he thinks we should start to look at bonding. Kampa asked about property and land purchasing, Sonmor stated that those costs are not in this information. Scheel stated that the landowners are aware of this possibility already too. Sonmor said he will be speaking to MNDOT, Kampa asked how that works, do they say yes or no right away? Sonmor said it's a process that we will have to work through. Kampa asked if they say no, are we done? Sonmor said no we keep talking. Nodo said that this wouldn't happen for years, with the overpass they had to keep asking.
Allen presented the updated street improvement study. He said that there are a lot of roads that would benefit from chip sealing. He was wondering if we are going to do any this year or if we have a plan. Nodo questioned the engineer's costs, chip coating only requests an inspection, he would like solid numbers. Allen said they don't know numbers until they know what we are planning to do, then they present the task order for approval. Sonmor stated that this is just the starting point. Nodo pointed out that their rates are between 34 and 37%. Allen said that they normally estimate 35%, so that is correct. Nodo stated that is too high. Skroch asked the clerk to email the council the budget for the streets.
 - d. Meeting dates with School Board – The School Board would like to set a date for the annual meeting. They are looking at April 18th at either 5 or 5:30 PM. Council consensus is that would work, Fandel will verify.
 - e. Prairie Farm Company Farm Lease 2023 - Scheel made a motion to approve the 2023 Prairie Farm Lease. Second by Kampa. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - f. Ball Field Agreement - Scheel made a motion to approve the 2023 Ball field Agreement. Second by Kampa. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.



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- g. Consent Agenda – Nodo stated that on his paperwork his name was listed as a Park Board member and was wondering how this got changed. Kampa showed Nodo her copy that she received via email, in which his name did not appear. Nodo stated that his paperwork did show it. Fandel explained the process of how she puts the packets together and that she would have to have taken his page and changed it since all the other packets had the correct information. Nodo said I'm not saying that and Kampa responded yes you are. Scheel explained that he had spoken directly to Nodo at the January 9th meeting and stated that Kampa and Skroch would stay on the board, Nodo has no recollection of that. Nodo said that there should be more residents on the boards and not two council members. Scheel made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Second by Kampa. Kampa, Scheel and Skroch ayes, Nodo nay, motion carried.

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

Clerks Report – Lumber Jack update, they only need to report every 3-6 months. City Hall Fund update – the fund currently has \$20,737. This will increase as soon as we move the committed funds of \$10,000 from 2022. City Hall Fax -We are not using the fax line and it is \$27.00 per month, we have not been asked to fax anything for anyone nor have we received anything by fax for a long time. Kampa made a motion to disconnect the fax line. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. The Local Board of Review is scheduled for April 10th at 6 PM. Gene is starting pickle ball as of February 28th, 2023. The Benton County Auditor has some concerns with our auditor that we are working on. Fandel asked that from now on if a council member needs information from her, please send her an email, she will let them know the time frame of getting them the information. She addressed Nodo and stated that she can't have him coming and disrupting her, but if he sends an email, she will find out the information.

Public Works – Wollak stated that we are having issues with the main lift station. He was in over the weekend and at night. The service person is coming tomorrow, they think it is a float issue and a bad impeller.

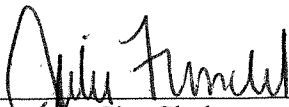
6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

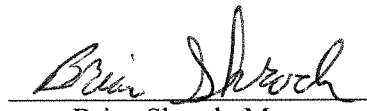
- a. February 20th, 2023 - Office Closed
- b. February 21st, 2023 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- c. February 27th, 2023 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- d. March 6th, 2022 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- e. March 7th, 2023 - Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- f. March 20th, 2023 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- g. March 27th, 2023 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM

7. **Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Nodo 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 at 7:15 PM. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting February 21st, 2023, 6 PM.


Julie Fandel – City Clerk


Brian Skroch, Mayor