



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367



Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday November 6th, 2023, 6:00 PM

Mayor Brian Skroch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present: Paula Kampa, Michelle Keller, Ken Nodo, Chris Scheel, Steve Wollak, Tiffany Pyka Office Assistant, and Julie Fandel, City Clerk.

1. Keller made a motion to accept the agenda as presented for Monday November 6th, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Second by Nodo. Fandel - Remove liquor license from consent agenda, Resolution #110623-20 replaces the one in the packet and add under 5 c. Paula Kampa. Keller amended her motion to include changes. Nodo amended his second. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Scheel made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
 - a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes October 16th, 2023.
Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **Citizen Participation:** None
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. PFAS Issue – Closed meeting per Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subdivision 3. Scheel made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) for an attorney-client protected discussion with the City's attorney regarding the PFAS class action suits against 3M and Dupont that identify the City as a claimant. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Scheel I make a motion to reopen this meeting. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - b. RESOLUTION #110623-20 a Resolution Approving Assessments for Delinquent Stormwater Utility Fees. Kampa made a motion to approve Resolution #110623-20 approving Assessments for Delinquent stormwater utility fees. Second by Scheel. 3 ayes 2 nays, motion carried.
 - c. RESOLUTION #110623-21 a Resolution Committing and Transferring Funds. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #110623-21 a Resolution Committing and Transferring Funds. Seconded by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - d. Chief Janski – New hirers, tanker truck. The Membership Committee recommends that the City of Rice hire Austin Anderson and Dakotah Warzecka for probationary employment with the City of Rice Fire Department. Kampa asked how many firefighters this will make, Janski stated 22. Nodo asked if that was as many as he wanted, Janski stated more! Skroch asked if either of them will be local for day calls, Janski said yes one is at Virnig. Scheel made a motion to approve the hiring of Austin Anderson and Dakotah Warzecka as probationary firefighters. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Chief Janski address tanker truck unit #8, it is a 1993 or 94 and needs repair. It will take about two years to get a new truck after we order. Janski would like to form a committee to start the process, would like to get the council's approval first. Scheel asked if he could get an estimate so that they would have an idea of what the cost is. I'm sure we will have to take out a loan again. The cost would be between \$300,000 and \$400,000, he will bring in the proposal when it is available. Kampa asked who he would have on the committee would he include public or residents? Janski said any of the council that wanted to be, firefighters and yes also public, preferably with some truck knowledge, they know what they need for the fire portion. Consensus of the council was that Chief Janski should move forward.



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

- a. Clerks Report – Cannabis, Chief Hamann, our attorney and I have been working on an ordinance. Our attorney does not think we should adopt the Benton County one, he disagrees with some of the language. Chief Hamann stated that the big problem is clarifying what a public area is and how do we define it. The planning commission also had a discussion at the last meeting, they feel it is impost that Chief Hamann has the most say in how it reads and how it will be enforced. We will continue to work at it and keep you informed. We have two new members on the planning commission, Mike Kampa and Adam Virnig. I will be out next Tuesday, but Tiffany will be in. Skroch informed the council that he has been working with Bob Kerestes on an AED fir the city. Kerestes has raised money from the Knights of Columbus, Rice Lions, Rice Sportsmen's Club and Benton Co-op. The city will be responsible for the maintenance. Wollak stated that he checked into it and the maintenance is \$750. Per year. Scheel stated that he was worried about vandalism. Chief Hamann stated that every time you open the door it takes a picture, Wollak added that they have not had any vandalism. Kampa added that she would like to see it placed by the City hall or by the Fire or Police department. Skroch said that Wollak, Hamann and Janski thought the safety committee should find the place. Consensus of the council was to move forward.
- b. Public Works – You all know that Bobby passed his class, which we now the licenses that we need. The numbers at the pounds are getting higher than they should be, the level of sludge is increasing. We will have to look at making some changes, we will keep monitoring it. Kamps asked if we need to clean them or replace them, Wollak stated that that would be very expensive, we hope we can treat them. He said that it might be by putting pucks in, more to come!
- c. Paula Kampa – Kampa read a letter she wrote with concern for a City Council member using her name at a Planning Commission meeting.

6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

- a. November 20th, 2023 – Work Session 5 PM
- b. November 20th, 2023 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- c. November 23rd & 24th, 2023 -Office Closed
- d. November 27th, 2023 – Planning Committee Meeting 7 PM
- e. December 4th, 2023 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- f. December 5th, 2023 – Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- g. December 18th, 2023 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- h. December 22nd & 25th, 2023 -Office Closed
- i. December 26th, 2023 – Planning Committee Meeting 7 PM

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 7:02 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting November 20th, 6 PM.


Julie Fandel – City Clerk


Brian Skroch, Mayor