



**City of Rice**  
205 Main St E – PO Box 179  
Rice, MN 56367  
**Rice City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:00 PM**



Mayor Skroch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present: Brian Skroch, Chris Scheel, Michelle Keller, Paula Kampa, Ken Nodo, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, Steve Wollak, Public Works, and Julie Fandel, City Clerk.

1. Scheel made a motion to accept the agenda as presented for Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Keller made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
  - a. Approval of Park Board Meeting Minutes December 5th, 2023.
  - b. Approval of Work Session Meeting Minutes January 22nd, 2024.
  - c. Approval City Council Meeting Minutes January 22nd, 2024.Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **Citizen Participation:** None.
4. **BUSINESS**
  - a. Fire Relief Association – Captain Calab Voigt presented an update for the Rice Fire Department retirement fund. They use US Bank for investments and are audited by Schlenner and Wenner. Currently the retirees receive \$2,000.00 per year. They are doing well with their investments and would like to up the retirement to \$2,500.00 per year. Voigt stated that the surrounding department ranges from \$6,800 to \$2250 depending on size and state aid. Nodo asked if he had a list of what the liabilities looked like, they are vested after 10 and can not draw until age 50. They do checks at meetings, and no one is retiring at this time, however situations can change. Today the liability if all retired would be \$490,000.00. Scheel complemented them on how well they had invested and Kampa thanked them for their service. Consent of the council was to do the increase.
  - b. Ballfield Agreement 2024- Any issues last year were addressed, and Wollak is not concerned. Kampa asked if we come out ok with the electric and upkeep at the \$650.00 rental. Wollak said he had issues with sprinkler heads last year and they run about \$100 each time, we have worked on how to prevent that this year. Scheel made a motion to accept the Ball Field Agreement for 2024. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
  - c. Stantec Update – Jeremy Mathiasen present Task order 24-01 LRE Well Report Assessment and Preliminary Well Design. Nodo made a motion to approve Task Order 24-01. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Task Order 24-02- Mathiasen asked to put this one on hold until we get more information. There are still questions about what type of adjustment we want to make. Fandel explained that it was because we could not get information on the cost of maintenance after the project was complete. Kampa stated that one estimate was \$4,000 per month to BNSF. Mathiasen will check further into this and bring back options. Fox Meadows Trail – There are a lot of review questions that came back from the state. It would be best to finish this part out with Moore Engineering, it needs to be ready by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Fandel presented the information received today at 5:18 pm from Moore. They would like the city to pay all the outstanding invoices and it would be about \$4,000 to \$5,000 to complete it to hand over to Stantec. They would lower Task Order #6 by \$22,000.00. The total still owed is \$38,528.00 We would need to amend Moore’s Task Order #6 to reflect the changes. Kampa stated for the record that Moore should be ashamed of their lack of



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professionalism being a business owner it is not acceptable. Skroch stated that we agree to the cost of the trail, so we are \$13,000.00 apart from what Moore states and what we think. Kampa and Scheel strongly disagreed and stated that they did not agree with that at all. Mathiasen stated that Moore's \$4,000- \$5,000 did not seem out of line with what still needs to be done. After further discussion it was agreed that paying for the trail would make sense, but can we just pay that and not the rest, Fandel stated that she did not believe so. Mathiasen stated that we should look at starting with tree removal, Wollak will start to get quotes.

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

Clerks Report – Elections are coming up, training at Benton on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Public Works – When it rained two weeks ago Wollak took Tim Grinstead over to sixth and it was flooded, also took him on a tour around town. Wollak contacted Aztec after he had more complaints about the extra rocks for last summer's seal coating. They came out and looked and said they would street sweep in the next few weeks. Kampa asked if there would be a cost, he will check but does not believe so. They are working on the fences at the ponds and filling potholes.

### 6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

- a. February 26th, 2024 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- b. March 4th, 2024 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- c. March 5th, 2024 - Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- d. March 18th, 2024 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- e. March 29th, 2024 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- f. April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 - City Council Meeting 6 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 6:50 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6 PM.

  
Julie Fandel – City Clerk

  
Brian Skroch, Mayor