



**City of Rice**  
205 Main St E – PO Box 179  
Rice, MN 56367  
**Rice City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday July 15th, 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 Tiffany Pyka, Office Assistant.

1. Keller made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Kampa made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
  - a. Approval City Council Meeting Minutes June 17th, 2024.
  - b. Approval Planning Committee Meeting Minutes July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.  
Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **Citizen Participation:** None
4. **BUSINESS**
  - a. RESOLUTION #071524-14 a Resolution accepting a donation from Boy Scout Troop 473. Scheel made a motion to approve RESOLUTION #071524-14 a Resolution accepting a donation from Boy Scout Troop 473, Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
  - b. Rice Firefighters Association Liquor License Rice Days 2024. Nodo made a motion to approve Rice Firefighters Association Liquor License Rice Days 2024. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays 1 abstain, motion carried.
  - c. Rice Firefighters Association Gambling Turkey Bingo. Scheel made a motion to approve the Rice Firefighters Association Gambling Turkey Bingo. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays 1 abstain, motion carried.
  - d. RESOLUTION #071524-15 Lawful Gambling Rice Firefighters Association. Scheel made a motion to approve the Rice Firefighters Association Gambling Turkey Bingo. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 0 nays 1 abstain, motion carried.
  - e. Ed Popp, County Commissioner – Looking for thoughts on the city joining the true county assessor system where all property assessments are conducted by the county. Nodo asked what the costs might be. Kampa asked if once our contract runs out with our current assessor would we be required to join. Scheel mentioned some concerns as the county is on their third assessor in a short time. Popp said there is a meeting next Monday where there will be more information provided.
  - f. Stantec – Mathiasen gave updates on all the city projects. Discussion on railroad crossing improvements. Mathiasen provided three options for the city to decide on. Kampa suggested having a work session to discuss which option to pick, agreed to schedule one. Discussion on Fox Meadows Trail improvement project. Virtual bids were received, two accepted and one thrown out. Chad with Rice Construction in attendance of meeting whose bid was thrown out. He showed papers to the council to argue the reason his bid was not accepted. Decision needs to be made to accept low bid or rebid. Kampa made a motion to accept the lowest acceptable bid that can be presented with the county. Second by Keller. 4 ayes 1 nays, motion carried. Discussion on new well improvements. Stantec will have the drawings at the next meeting. Discussion on Walnut Ridge development. Mathiasen said they are starting on paving next week. Brian said that addresses have been set for houses in the development. Discussion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE street and utility extension. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9am. Clearing and grubbing to start this



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week. Discussion on lead service line inventory. Using extra weeks to finish off, submit final inventory by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Discussion on results from Bohlig and Team lab on the wastewater treatment plant lagoon and depth of sludge found in ponds. Sludge is one foot in one and less than a foot in the other. Odor by sludge varies with the weather and the wind, has not been getting worse. Wollak said he will continue to monitor.

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

Clerks Report – Flooring Bid reviewed. The council asked to have a second bid completed. Public Works – Locate 4<sup>th</sup> Ave water shut off valve. Might have to dig up that day, would affect businesses. Scheel said to make sure to notify those business with enough notice. Wollak said will be part of discussion at the preconstruction meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Kampa asked if the new system they were looking at potentially getting would alert, Wollak said it would not have. Wollak reached out to Aztec regarding crack filling 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue per Kampa's request. Aztec recommended filling at the time but stated Moore engineering said no. Scheel and Kampa thanked Steve for looking into this.

### 6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:


- a. July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- b. August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- c. August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Park Board Meeting 5 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 7:00 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6 PM.

  
Julie Fandel – City Clerk

  
Brian Skroch, Mayor