



City of Rice

205 Main St E – PO Box 179

Rice, MN 56367

Rice City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 3rd, 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, Tim Grinstead, City Engineer, Steve Wollak, Bobby Vaillancourt, Public Works, and Julie Fandel, City Clerk.

1. Keller made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Kampa made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
 - a. Approval Work Session August 19th, 2024.
 - b. Approval City Council Meeting Minutes August 19th, 2024.Second by Keller. Skroch stated that he was asked to verify that we have the correct wastewater license. We are following all the rules and regulations. The MPCA information that was presented was incorrect. Nodo stated that the information was correct, he presented the rules the MPCA can choose the different regulations. Skroch stated that if you listen he stated that the information from the MPCA was incorrect, Nodo said no it is correct. Fandel stated that she had a call for the MPCA stating that the information that was given to Nodo was incorrect. The information presented by Nodo was not correct for our system. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** None – Skroch it has been brought to his attention from resident's phone calls that there has been information being spread that the wages of the Mayor are in excess of \$1,500 a month, this is totally incorrect, and wage information is public knowledge. Anyone who is spreading that information should please refrain from that, since it is incorrect.
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. RESOLUTION #090324-17 Lawful Gambling Bash for the Cure. Kampa made a motion to approve Resolution #090324-17 A lawful gambling for Bash for the Cure raffle. Second by Nodo. Kampa verify that we have a copy of the license. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - b. Stantec – Updated on all the projects. Fox Meadows trail is being graded, and no more complaints, Well bidding is put off until next week. We might increase the well casing size and screen to get more production. Walnut Ridge ware course is being put down this week. 4th Ave the base course is paved, they are working on restoration. There is a pay app in the packet to be approved. Scheel made a motion to approve payment #2 to Molitor Excavating for the work on 4th Ave NE.
5. **DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE/BOARD/CONTRACTED STAFF REPORTS/UPDATE**

Clerks Report – Stantec billing is in your packet, if you have any question please let me know. The Fire Department does such an excellent job of getting reimbursed for training that they have been awarded an additional \$783.06. Tiffany and I had a presentation from textmygov. It is a texting program; we do not feel like we are ready for this but wanted to let the council know it is available.

Public Works – Vaillancourt - Hansons has completed the 2 patches, and they turned out good. We had the training for Silversmith last week and have started using it, Skroch asked if it is as user friendly as they said, Wollak and Vaillancourt both confirmed it was. Wollak asked Nodo to apologize to Julie, Bobby, and himself. Nodo accused us of being nasty, and Fandel stated she was not and that she just sent the council all the correct information and you still asked me to re-verify all the information. Wollak asked why didn't you trust us? Fandel stated that she felt very offended that Nodo did not trust



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or believe us. Nodo stated that he was sorry if you felt offended, but he was right in checking further. Scheel stated that he stood with the employees and understands how they feel, the way Nodo dropped the information in front of everyone, Kampa concurred with Scheel, you should have asked to have it put on the agenda instead of just dropping it. Nodo stated that you could have asked MPCA, Skroch stated that we did not need to ask the MPCA, we had already proven it numerous times, at least four times. Nodo stated yes we do, but what I presented is correct. Skroch stated no it is not and that is why I said that the information presented was not correct for our city, which is the end of the conversation was incorrect. Fandel referred to Vaillencourt working closely with the MPCA. Kampa thanked Wollak for everything that he did for the city of Rice, Scheel also thanked Wollak, he was there for any question or problems, late nights, and always professional, you were a great asset to the city!

6. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

- a. September 4th, 2024 – Park Board Meeting 5 PM – CANCELLED
- b. September 5th, 2024 – Interview 5:30
- c. September 16th, 2024 - Work Session 5 PM
- d. September 16th, 2024 - City Council Meeting 6 PM – CANCELLED
- e. September 23rd, 2024 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- f. September 30th, 2024 – 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 Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

8. **Adjourn:** Kampa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting September 23rd, 2024, 6 PM.

Julie Fandel – City Clerk

Brian Skroch, Mayor