



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367
Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday January 6th, 2025



ADMINISTER OATHS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS – City Clerk Julie Fandel called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiances. Fandel then administers the Oath of Office to Mayor Brian Skroch, City Council Chairs Chris Scheel and Jacki Janski.

Mayor Skroch led the meeting. Present: Brian Skroch, Chris Scheel, Jacki Janski, Paula Kampa, Ken Nodo, Tim Grinstead, City Engineer, Bobby Vaillancourt, Public Works and Julie Fandel, City Clerk.

1. Nodo made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Scheel. Skroch moved the 6 d Fee Schedule to 6 o. Nodo amended his motion to include the changes. Scheel amended his second. 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 December 16th, 2024.
 - b. Approval Planning Committee Meeting December 30th, 2024.Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Charlie Anderson addressed the council and asked that each council member work together to improve the over city, he would like them all to put their personal agendas aside.
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. Chief Hamann Body Cam and Record System – Chief Hamann discussed the information that he sent to the council via email for both systems, he plans to use the Police portion of the safety grant we received. He has been working with the county on both systems. Tyler Technologies is the records system; this will tie the area law enforcement together. Scheel made a motion to Rice Police Department to pay the percentage to the records system as presented by Chief Hamann. Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Scheel made a motion to approve the joint powers agreement. Second by Janski. Skroch asked how long the agreement was for, Hamann stated the length of the use of the system. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. GETAC is the body cam system, again he has researched different ones, and these are the same as the county, if we purchase with them, we will get a better price. These will download to the laptop and system automatically; the current ones can take hours to download. Noda asked if the county was going with these, Hamann yes. Kampa made a motion to approve the purchase of the new body cam system. Second by Nodo. Kampa asked what the monthly fee is, and Hamann stated that there is not. Kampa also asked what fund this cost would come from, Fandel stated that the safety funds are in the committed funds. Scheel asked if all our officers had body cams, Hamann stated yes. 5 aye 0 nays, motion carried.
 - b. Marc Kelash – Re-Zoning – Kelash explained that he would like to rezone his property and bring his office back into town. Nodo asked how it is zoned now, Kelash R-1. Skroch stated that it was presented to the Planning Commission, and their concern was that it would be spot zoning, after discussion it was moved forward to the City Council. Scheel question just doing it with a conditional use permit, Skroch informed the council that there would still need to be a conditional use permit if or after the rezoning is approved. Nodo does not like the spot zoning, Kelash explained that he cannot feasible they can financially make it work if it is residential .Kampa question in the Planning Commission notes there was a question on storage, Fandel stated that there was a question on if he would have any outside storage and the answer was no because he has all of the products delivered to the job site. Scheel asked if they had considered a fence, yes, possibly in the future. Kampa reconfirmed that the one building would be remolded and the old school would be taken down.



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- Kampa made a motion to allow Kelash to move forward to the Public Hearing for 405 Main St W. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- c. Kelly Lemke – Contract – Lemke stated that she had prepared a year’s contract. She is not sure when Benton County will be changing to a true county, Nodo stated that they are already, Fandel clarified that they had passed a resolution to that effect. Lemke stated that the county had not informed her of this yet. Nodo asked how she could get another contract because that would go into 2026, no you do the assessing in 2025 and present in 2026. Lemke stated that the county might hire some of the current assessors, but nothing has been offered yet. Consensus of the council was to revisit this next meeting.
 - d. Tri-County Humane Society Contract Kampa made a motion to except the Tri County Human Society Contract. Second by Nodo. Kampa asked what the biting refer to, Fandel stated that they added that for animals that bit. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - e. Bid for Publishing Local Government Legal Items 2025- Scheel made a motion to approve the Sauk Rapids Herold as the official Rice newspaper. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - f. Contracted Staff – Move to January 21st, 20225 meeting.
 - g. Benton County Administration Agreement - Kampa made a motion to approve the Benton County agreement. Second by Nodo. Kampa asked to add this to moved to a work session, she had asked for 2.5 percent at the last meeting with Byrd and there was no response. Everything presented to the council stated 2-3% and now it is at 3. We did not agree to that amount. O ayes 5 nays, motion failed.
 - h. RESOLUTION #010625-01 a Resolution Adopting water and sewer rate monthly increases. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #010625-01 a Resolution Adopting water and sewer rate monthly increases. Second by Kampa. Nodo stated again that he does not agree with the Strom Water charge, Fandel stated that she has checked with the Attorney each time Nodo suggests we cannot charge this, and he reconfirms we can with an Attorney charge each time. Scheel stated that we address this at the Water Sewer meeting. Nodo stated he did not care; he will never agree. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - i. RESOLUTION #010625-02 a Resolution Committing and Transferring Funds Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #010625-02 a Resolution Committing and Transferring Funds. Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - j. RESOLUTION #010625-03 a Resolution Annual Appointments Nodo made a motion to approve Resolution #010625-03 a Resolution Annual Appointments. Second by Kampa. Discussion on adding Janski to the Community Center, also check on the Health Officer and add Office Assistant to Authorized Person to Make Electronic Transfers. Nodo amended his motion to include the changes, Kampa amended her second. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - k. RESOLUTION #010625-04 a Resolution to approve Maintenance of Bend in the Rice Trail – Nodo made a motion to approve Resolution #010625-04 a Resolution to approve Maintenance of Bend in the Rice Trail. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - l. RESOLUTION #010625-05 a Resolution to approve Knights of Columbus Gambling Permit – Kampa made a motion to approve Resolution #010625-0505 a Resolution to approve Knights of Columbus Gambling Permit. Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - m. RESOLUTION #010625-06 a Resolution to approve Immaculate Conception Gambling Permit – Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #010625-06 a Resolution to approve Immaculate Conception Gambling Permit. Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - n. Stantec. Update projects, Jeremy submitted plan to the Railroad. Fox’s Meadows trail we will reevaluate it in the spring. Well-We have an issue with the placement of the new Well, we will be



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drilling the test Well deeper to see if it produces more. I will update as a can. Walnut Ridge is complete.

- o. 2025 Fee Schedule. Scheel made a motion to approve the Fee and Salary Schedule. Second by Kampa. Kampa asked about adjusting the rental fees for Class II users to \$30 per day and \$40 per quarter. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

2025 Salary Schedule. Kampa made a motion to approve the 2025 Salary Schedule. Second by Nodo. Chief Janski stepped up to discuss the Fire Department changes. Kampa asked if he added a Deputy Chief, Janski said yes, he did it is part of his succession plan, we are setting the department up for success. Captions are doing more training; Lieutenants are taking on more responsibility. I am trying to make changes so that when someone retires or something happens, we are prepared. Scheel said he did notice these increases but does not remember discussing them during budgeting. Janski stated yes, I had it in the plan, but did not present it, my mistake. Scheel said he thought that it is usually we increase retirement or give raises? The Relief Association runs the retirement. Kampa asked if we could add \$.50 to the second year Rec attendant. Kampa amended her motion, Nodo amended his second. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried Council Chair Janski absented.

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

Clerks Report Rice Investors made the park dedication payment, working on end of the year reports. Kampa asked about reviews and stated that she thought each employee should do a self-evaluation. Skroch said that we have done that in the past. Kampa said she would forward a form that she has used and really likes.

Public Works – Working on the ice rink, hopefully open this week, fence repair by the ponds and working on machines for the spring.

Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

- a. January 20th, 2025 – Office Closed
- b. January 21st, 2025 – Work Session 5:00
- c. January 21st, 2025 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- d. January 27th, 2025 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- e. February 3rd, 2025 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- f. February 6th, 2025 - Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- g. February 17th, 2025 – Office Closed

6. **Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Kampa made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Nodo. Kampa asked why there is a w9 in the bills, Fandel stated that is to keep them together until filed. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
7. **Adjourn:** Kampa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting January 21st, 2025, 6 PM.

Julie Fandel – City Clerk

Brian Skroch, Mayor