



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367
Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday December 16th, 2024 – 6 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, Bobby Vaillancourt, Public Works and Julie Fandel, City Clerk.

1. Keller made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Nodo. Add resolution 121624-37. Keller amended her motion to include the change. Nodo amended his second. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Kampa made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented to include:
 - a. Approval of Park Board Minutes November 6th, 2024
 - b. Approval City Council Meeting Minutes December 2nd, 2024.Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** None
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. Superintendent Bergstrom – Presentation on Levy information.
 - b. Benton County – Chris Byrd & Ed Popp – Discussion on communications, Scheel listed 6 different situations where the county did not respond or assist the city. Byrd discussed the cost to the county to administer the projects. Scheel asked about the sales tax and why that could not be used. Byrd stated that those dollars are committed even throughout Benton County. Kampa also stated that she does not feel we get good customer service from Benton. Byrd stated that some of this is his fault, and some are things the city did not understand.
 - c. Rice Rec Hourly Rate – Rice Rec asked to give a raise to the Rice Rec employees, he would like it to be increased from \$9 to \$12. Scheel made a motion to change the Rice Rec hourly pay to \$12.00. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - d. RESOLUTION #121624-35 Resolution Committing Funds to from Rice Area Sportsman to the Rice Fire Department. Kampa made a motion to approve Resolution #121624-35 a Resolution Committing Funds to from Rice Area Sportsman to the Rice Fire Department in the amount of \$1,200. Second by Keller. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - e. RESOLUTION #121624-36 Resolution Committing Funds to from Rice Firefighters Association to the Rice Fire Department. Keller made a motion to approve Resolution #121624-36 a Resolution Committing Funds to from Rice Fighters Association to the Rice Fire Department in the amount of \$913.46. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - f. Stantec - Update projects, Jeremy met with Railroad, MNDOT and Benton County, it went well just need to tweak items. Well-they put in the driveway and may start drilling in the next week. Nodo stated that they will have to bring the power over because it is on the other side. Mathiasen stated they were aware of that. Kampa made a motion to approve Task Order 24-07 for \$24,050. Second by Keller. This is in the scope could be less we will know at the end.
 - g. RESOLUTION #121624-37 a Resolution to approve Maintenance of Bend in the Rice Trail. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #121624-37 a Resolution to approve Maintenance of Bend in the Rice Trail. Second by Nodo. Discussion on not having enough details currently. 0 ayes 5 nays, motion failed.

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



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Clerks Report – Assessor contract is over; do we want to start with the county this year? Skroch asked Fandel to get quotes from our current assessor and the County. Fandel will check with both. I will be on vacation tomorrow 12-17-24.

Public Works – We replaced the scales and updated and cleaned up other equipment. The Health Department was here on Thursday for the new well and had no issues with it.

Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:


- a. December 16th, 2024 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- b. December 25th & 26th, 2024 – City Hall Closed Christmas Eve & Day
- c. December 30th, 2024 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- d. January 1st, 2025 - City Hall Closed New Year's Day.
- e. January 6th, 2025 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- f. January 7th, 2025 – Park Board 5 PM

6. **Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Keller made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Nodo. Kampa asked to have the BEP payment pulled. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

7. **Adjourn:** Kampa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting January 6th, 2025, 6 PM.


Julie Fandel – City Clerk


Brian Skroch, Mayor