



City of Rice
205 Main St E – PO Box 179
Rice, MN 56367
Rice City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January



Mayor Skroch called the meeting to order. 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. Scheel made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Janski. 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 January 6th, 2025.
Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** None
4. **BUSINESS**
 - a. Chief Janski – Hiring- Chief Janski presents a letter from the Rice Fire Department Membership Committee recommending Erin Van Sickle. Chief Janski stated that they had 3 candidates and two did not qualify. Kampa made a motion to approve candidate Van Sickle pending probation and physical and urinalysis. Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - b. Schlenner Wenner & Co information. – Fandel explained that she asked for a three-year contract and Schlenner Wenner does not do that anymore. She spoke with Jon Archer, and he said that they just do not know what the cost will do. 2026 quote is \$19,500.00.
 - c. Assessor Contract – Kampa made a motion to approve Lemke Assessor for the 2025-2026 year. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - d. Contracted Staff – Scheel stated he felt that we need to do an RFP for the Building Inspector, even though we usually don't get other applications. Kampa agreed that we should just for accountability. Kampa made a motion to approve the contracted staff doing and an RFP for the Building Inspector. Second Nodo. 5 aye 0 nays, motion carried.
 - e. Benton County Administration Agreement Move to February 3rd, 2025, meeting.
 - f. RESOLUTION #012125-07 a Resolution Supporting ISD #47 Referendum. Nodo made a motion to approve Resolution #012125-07. Second by Kampa. Kampa stated that the residents should have their voices heard by voting, Scheel agreed. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - g. RESOLUTION #012125-08 Resolution Committing Funds to from Rice Area Sportsman to the Rice Fire Department. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #012125-08 a Resolution Committing Funds to from Rice Area Sportsman to the Rice Fire Department in the amount of \$3,400.00. Second by Janski. Kampa asked what this donation was for, Chief Janski responded Ice Rescue Suits. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
 - h. Stantec. Friday, we got an email from the MNDOT stating that the rail crossing is not an historical site, and we can move forward with our plan. So just waiting on the Railroad. Traut did the test pilot hole, it was 15ft sand and gravel twice what the 1st spot was by 50 to 65 %. Again, you don't know for sure until you start to pump, but it looks good.
5. **DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE/BOARD/CONTRACTED STAFF REPORTS/UPDATE**

Clerks Report – The city was served papers for the Kelash easement vacate, not sure why since they had already asked and paid for a public hearing. I had already put together everything for the hearing so we will be charging them \$225.00, and I will be working with our attorney on what else we need to do. In



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working with both Chief Hamann and Chief Janski about the Public Health on our appointment resolution, Chief Janski referred me to Benton County Public Health. In speaking with them we do not need Public Health on our appointments. I have a BEP meeting on Thursday, Tiffany will be here to cover I will let you know about closing the office. I am working on end of the year and audit information and reports.

Public Works – Monday and Tuesday the floats were stuck in pump 2 and ran for an extended amount of time. Tri State Pump had to fix it due to an air lock. I would like to purchase float trees and new lift handles to prevent this from happening, the total cost would be \$1365.11 for both. Nodo asked would that eliminate the issue, Vaillancourt stated yes. Kampa asked if there was something that caused this, Vaillancourt stated grease and closing at the perfect time. Scheel made a motion to purchase float trees and handles not to exceed \$1400. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Vaillancourt said we have two 325 gallons tanks that we transfer water to; it takes a long time. We would like to update to 1,000 tanks, the two would cost \$3500. Kampa made a motion to approve the purchase of two 1,000-gallon tanks not to exceed \$3,500. Second by Janski. Kampa asked how much it would be to deliver and install? Vaillancourt stated that he and Cairns would do both. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. We did the water shut off on Thursday for the Bremer bank pipe fix, it went well. Nodo said that he heard we had the water shut off, Vaillancourt said he notified the residents and business that the water maybe shut off, but it wasn't. He felt it was better to be safe than sorry.

Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:

- a. January 27th, 2025 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 PM
- b. February 3rd, 2025 – Work Session 5 PM
- c. February 3rd, 2025 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- d. February 6th, 2025 - Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- e. February 17th, 2025 – Office Closed
- f. February 18th, 2025 – City Council Meeting 6 PM

6. **Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Kampa made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Nodo. Fandel informed the council that there was an error on our Auto and Comp insurance, so it may have to be paid next week. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
7. **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 February 3rd, 2025, 6 PM.

Julie Fandel – City Clerk

Brian Skroch, Mayor