



**City of Rice**  
205 Main St E – PO Box 179  
Rice, MN 56367  
**Rice City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday April 7th, 2025**



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

1. Nodo made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Janski. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Nodo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include:
  - a. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.  
Second by Janski. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
3. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** None
4. **BUSINESS**
  - a. Rice Fire Department – Rice Fire Department was named Fire Department of the Year, for the state of Minnesota. Scheel noted that Chief Janski's article in the paper was nice. Chief Janski also informed them of upcoming repairs for trucks #2 & #9.
  - b. Sara Midas Large Gathering Permits, Scheel made a motion to approve the Farmers Market Large Gather Permit. Second by Nodo. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Nodo made a motion to approve the Bike Rodeo Large Gather Permit. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Janski made a motion to approve the Rice Days 2025 Large Gather Permit. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
  - c. RESOLUTION #040725-11 A resolution establishing an annual pension increase for the Rice Fire Relief Association. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #040725-11 A resolution establishing an annual pension increase for the Rice Fire Relief Association. Second by Nodo. Nodo commented that we are approving that if this fund falls short the city will cover the shortage. Chief Janski noted that they are currently at 103%, Scheel also stated that he feels the relief association is doing a great job, Nodo agreed but stated that it is still possible the city would be responsible. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
  - d. Old Village Hall Update. Scheel made a motion to approve the work order for Mahler & Associates, for \$8,700.00, to take the next step on the Old Village Hall. Second by Nodo. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
  - e. Rice Elementary Walk for Life – Nodo made a motion to approve the Rice Elementary Walk for Life. Second by Janski. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
  - f. Stantec – Jeremy is meeting with the railroad and MNDOT to discuss final approval of the plan. Well, the test only shows 75-100 GPM. This is much lower than we wanted, in a phone meeting on Wednesday Traut stated that they had a test, with the equipment they were demoing. We should know more after Tuesday. We may need to start to look for a new location. The council would like Tim to get cost for road work on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Ave NE.
5. **DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE/BOARD/CONTRACTED STAFF REPORTS/UPDATE**

Clerk's Report - We received a portion of our 2025 local government aid (LGA) on March 20. This is not supplemental funding but rather an advance on the LGA. This is a one-time advance payment and will not occur again next year unless there is a change in the law. The remaining will still be distributed as usual, split equally between July 20 and Dec. 26 payments.

BEP is applying for a housing grant; it is income based and can be used for home improvements. They would manage the program, the dollars would be in a fund and distributed to applicates that have been approved. We are taking registration for ball and soccer. I attended the Safety and Loss Control seminar; useful information I have copies of if anyone is interested. Also ran a year-to-date budget and the few items that are over budget are explainable. We are on track.



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Public Works - 9 lift station panel is not here yet, 6 lift station needed a new impeller. Brian and I are pulling the utility hole cover to check where we need to jet. The Lions Club will be making upgrades to the Lions Park ball field. The council asked Vaillancourt to put together a list for seal coating, what was done and when, what should be done this year.

**Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Park Board Meeting 5 PM - Cancelled
  - b. April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting 6 PM
  - c. April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Building Inspector Interviews. 7 pm
  - d. April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
  - e. April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Planning Committee Meeting 7 PM
  - f. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
  - g. May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Park Board Meeting 5 PM
6. **Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Nodo made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
7. **Adjourn:** Janski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM. Second by Scheel. 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 6 PM.

  
Julie Fandel – City Clerk

  
Brian Skroch, Mayor