



**City of Rice**  
205 Main St E – PO Box 179  
Rice, MN 56367  
**Rice City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



Mayor Skroch called the meeting to order. Present: Brian Skroch, Jacki Janski, Ken Nodo, Paula Kampa, Chris Scheel, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, Bobby Vaillancourt, Public Works and Julie Fandel, City Clerk. Mayor Skroch asked for a moment of silence for the events of last weekend.

1. Scheel made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Nodo. Skroch added Business g. Gambling permit for MN Deer Hunting Association. Scheel amended his motion to include the changes. Nodo amended his second. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Kampa made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include:
  - a. Approved March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Park Board Meeting Minutes.
  - b. Approved April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.
  - c. Approved May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Work Session
  - d. Approved May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes
  - e. Approved May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.
  - f. Approved June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Park Board Meeting Minutes.Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

**3. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: None**

**4. BUSINESS**

- a. Aschenbrenner- The Aschenbrenner have peacocks in the city limits, complaints have been made. The city ordinance addresses this in two sections one is they do not allow exotic animals and second a noise violation. The Aschenbrenner's believe they should be able to keep them because it is a farm. Since these have been born on the farm they do not think they are exotic, they consider them domestic. They sell the eggs and feathers, they have a tax id, so they pay taxes on the sales. They have had them for 15 years and only had a few complaints. Chief Hamann stated that each complaint must be addressed and with this one the ordinances seem clear. The family would like to be able to move the cages to the other side of the property, they could do this in about six weeks. The issue is that if it does not solve the problem, you have wasted the money on the cages, and you would have to still remove them stated Chief Hamann. Kampa asked if they spoke with any of the neighbors about this? They have not. Nodo stated that a farm does not have to check if its ok, it is a farm. Janski stated that she is concerned that if we allow it, then it must be ok all through the town. Skroch added what happens if they keep them and they get complaints; we just keep giving them \$50 citations? Discussion from both sides continued, with valid points. Kampa made a motion to address this at July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the City Council meeting. Scheel second. Kampa amended her motion to include that they will keep them in the barn at night until the next meeting. Scheel amended his second. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- b. Brad Vaillancourt Letter Kampa made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Brad Vaillancourt. Second by Janski. Scheel thanked Vaillancourt for his years of service and stated that Vaillancourt said he was fortunate to be able to work with a great chief and crew. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- c. Mahler & Associates Architecture bid. Nodo stated that we approved of this already, Fandel clarified that the plans attached were the final plan. Scheel made a motion to accept the plans as presented. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- d. Large Gathering Permit Rice Fire Fighters Association. Kampa made a motion to approve the large gathering permit for the Rice Fire Fighters Association Turkey Bingo November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- e. Stantec – Railroad contract is ready, and the city attorney viewed it. The easement amount is \$8,000. Kampa made a motion to approve the BNSF contract as presented, which includes the easement information. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Scheel asked why all our projects are moving so slowly. I am scared we are not going to get them done, at first it was the Railroad project and now the roads and Well projects.



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Mathiasen assured the council that we will have time to complete and that with them they will all start to move along now that they are this far along. We are checking two new areas for the Well site. Nodo stated that he had concerns about both locations, the nitrates. These are being are getting higher every year, right Bobby? Vaillancourt said that they have been remaining steady. Mathiasen stated that they are aware of the nitrates also. The road project is ready to be bid; we need approval to start the coring for depths. Nodo made a motion to approve ITTT to do the core testing for \$1360.00. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Fow Meadow Trail has been reseeded so hopefully with the rain we will be good.

- f. RESOLUTION #061625-15 a Resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisements for bids for 2025 roadway improvements. Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution #061625-15 a resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisements for bids for 2025 roadway improvements. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- g. RESOLUTION #061625-16 A Resolution Approval of Lawful Gambling for the MN Deer Hunters Association. Scheel made a motion to approve lawful gambling for the MN Deer Hunters Association raffle. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

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

Clerk Report – Chief Hamann sent out the contract for the Benton County fair, is there a consensus for the Rice Police Department to work. Yes. I received a grant from Benton Telecommunications Foundation for the reader sign for the city hall building.

Public Works – Panel Replacement bid Vaillancourt reviewed estimates for the panel replacement, the difference in cost is the cabinet size, he thinks we should so with the lower bid. Nodo made a motion to install the new panel not to exceed \$39,000, plus the cost of the electrician. Second by Janski. Kampa asked that he email the council the electrician cost. Seal coating bid, there are 3 companies that do this work. The first was \$119,302 and the second bid was \$123,387.50. The consensus of the council was to put this on hold until we get the bids for the other road work. Fandel added that the iPads for the council have been ordered.

**Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Office Closed
- b. June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Planning Committee Meeting
- c. July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – Office Closed
- d. July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- e. July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- f. July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- g. July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Planning Committee Meeting 7 PM

- 6. Approval of Bills/Electronic Transfers:** Janski made a motion to approve the Bills/Electronic Transfers as presented. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

- 7. Adjourn:** Kampa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Next City Council Meeting July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6 PM.

Julie Fandel – City Clerk

Brian Skroch, Mayor