



**City of Rice**  
205 Main St E – PO Box 179  
Rice, MN 56367  
**Rice City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



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

1. Scheel made a motion to accept the agenda. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

2. Kampa made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include:

- a. Approved June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Approved June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.

Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

3. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** None

**4. BUSINESS**

- a. Fire Department Retirement – Brad Vaillancourt -Chief Janski presented a plaque for his 27 years of service to the Rice Fire Department. Janski thanked him for all his work to improve the department over the years. Vaillancourt thanked the members for being great to work with and helping him to move forward with his career, he said Rice is incredibly lucky to have so many great firefighters. The council thanks Vaillancourt as well.
- b. Aschenbrenner – Fandel read a letter from Troy Gilchrist, the city attorney, the conclusion of the letter stated that peacocks or peafowl could not be keep in the city limits. Patty Aschenbrenner asked if the attorney was aware that the USDA states, they are farm animals, Fandel stated that she forwarded all the information to the attorney that she received from Aschenbrenner daughter and this was his conclusion. Nodo stated that it is the attorney's opinion that these are not domesticated animals. Skroch reread that attorney letter stating that they are not usually domesticated. Scheel stated that there are complaints, so we need to deal with that. Skroch asked if anyone was ready to make a motion. Chief Hamann noted that he did not like that they asked anonymous people to come to the meeting, which is not fair. Kampa asked how we can address the complaints. Patty Aschenbrenner said that they should get three notices like they would if it were a dog. Chief Hamann stated if the birds are not allowed there are no three strikes, moving forward it would be a citation and that it is a criminal and would get before a judge. Melissa (Aschenbrenner?) asked how long they would have to move the birds if they decided to do that. Patty Aschenbrenner asked the city to call the attorney. She spoke to the attorney who stated that the federal rules would override the city code, he responded no the cities overrule. Patty stated that the previous records did not mention peafowl as being exotic and that they should have been grandfathered in. The attorney verified that the city code is the code, and the animals would not be grandfathered in even if changed. Skroch asked if anyone had anything else for the attorney, no one did, he thanked Troy Gilchrist. The Aschenbrenner's asked for a 5-minute recess. Kampa made a motion to recess for 5 minutes. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Kampa made a motion to resume the meeting. Second by Janski. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Brian Aschenbrenner spoke for the family and stated that they decided as a family that they would like to move the birds, they would move them in six weeks or less. Nodo made a motion to allow the Aschenbrenner's to have up to six weeks to move the peafowl from their property. Second by Scheel. Kampa asked if Chief Hamann would be monitoring this, Chief Hamann asked that the family notify him when the birds are moved. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- c. RESOLUTION #070725-17 a Resolution Accepting a Donation from Langola Township. Kampa made a motion to approve Resolution #070725-17 a Resolution Accepting a Donation from Langola Township in the amount of \$1,500 to Rice Rec. Second by Nodo. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- d. RESOLUTION #070725-18 a Resolution Accepting a Donation from The Lumberjacks. Janski made a motion to approve Resolution #070725-18 a Resolution Accepting a Donation from The Lumberjacks in the amount of \$2,000 for the Rice Park Board. Second by Scheel. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.



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- e. Large Gathering Permit Rice American Legion – Hog Roast. Nodo made a motion to approve the Large Gather Permit for the Rice American Legion Hog Roast July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Second by Janski. Scheel asked if we needed to amend to include waving the 30 days. Nodo amended his motion to include waving the 30 days advance notice. Janski amended her second. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.
- f. Stantec – The railroad project is still waiting for MnDOT – Kampa asked if there was a picture of what it will look like, people have been asking her. Tim will find one. We are still on track with the project. We would like to do a Well test at the Westside Park, Nodo has a problem with this, it is just as close to the fields and will most likely have the same nitrates issues. Why not the mosquito park? Scheel asked what about in our industrial park? Nodo stated that it had been tested, and the nitrates were very high. Kampa said that we should get a Representative in to help us. Vaillancourt stated that the bottom line is that we have sandy soil and the DNR is going to say that we need to ban watering. We use a lot of water just for watering grass. Fandel asked if the LRE repost showed anything on mosquito park? Tim will double-check that. Kampa stated that we cannot afford to keep trying spots. Skroch stated that he agrees that he does want to keep spending money, but we have hardly scratched the surface, we have not exhausted all our options. Nodo said that the DNR will say that we need to treat it. Tim and Vaillancourt will check out the LRE report. The street bids will be ready for the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, can we send out a flyer informing residents? Skroch said that is a great idea, he has had some calls already. Scheel made a motion to approve Stantec sending mailers to the effect residents. Nodo second. Fandel asked for a color change., Tim agreed. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried. Still checking the meadows trail. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE is complete; we would like to send the final payment and voucher #4. Nodo made a motion to send the final for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE project. Second by Kampa. 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

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

Clerk Report – We sent out water violation letters, we will be sending the reminder to the stormwater residents that have not paid yet. I will be sending out budget information.

Public Works – The quote for the OVH roof is \$65,000, if you add gutters and additional \$9,500. If there is any insulation to replace that is \$2.50 a foot. If we move forward, we will need another quote. Everything else is going well.

**Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- b. July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- c. July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Planning Committee Meeting 7 PM
- d. August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – City Council Meeting 6 PM
- e. August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Park Board Meeting 5 PM
- f. August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - City Council Meeting 6 PM
- g. August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Planning Committee Meeting 7 PM

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

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

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

  
Julie Fandel – City Clerk

  
Brian Skroch, Mayor