

City of Rice Lake Common Council
Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
5:00 pm

City Hall Council Room, 30 East Eau Claire Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868

The public may physically attend or access the meeting via TV (Charter 992; Mosaic 993), Internet live stream (<https://tinyurl.com/yyI9rxbv>), and/or radio (105.5 FM). Participants in one or more agenda items may attend in-person or virtually by:

1. Copying and pasting into an internet browser (Chrome is preferred)
<https://zoom.us/j/96159485695?pwd=ZjkwRVRtQWJDdVU1NUttTDVvMmo2UT09>
and/or
2. Calling 1.312.626.6799 and entering this Meeting ID Number: 961 5948 5695 and Password: 666102

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Public Appearances (*) Persons wanting to speak under Public Appearances must sign0in at the podium by the Council Room entrance prior to the meeting being called to order per Council Procedural Rules Policy

- a. Public Appearance Introductions (Mayor)

4. Council President Election (Mayor)

5. Non-Council/Council Committee Appointments (Mayor)

6. Mayor/Council Comments – items not for discussion

7. Adjourn

Harlan Dodge, Mayor

(*) Appearances are limited to 3 minutes per person (less if there are numerous speakers on the same topic). City residents and City taxpayers may address the Council. Non-City residents may address the Common Council only with Council's permission (or prior administrative permission granted by the City Clerk-Treasurer's Office). Speakers are strongly encouraged to limit remarks to City of Rice Lake city government issues. The complete policy is available at www.ci.ricelake.wi.us or at the City Clerk-Treasurer's Office. Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the American with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format must contact: Julie A. Kessler, City Clerk-Treasurer, 30 East Eau Claire Street, Rice Lake, (715) 234-7088 by 2:00 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request.

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of the governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above- stated meeting to gather information – no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referenced to above in this notice.

Memo To: Mayor & Council
From: City Clerk-Treasurer Kessler
Date: April 10, 2025

Item 4

Subject: Council President Election

Issue - In the past, Councils have elected the Council President by a majority roll call voice vote or, as allowed by State Statute, by signed secret ballot.

The election takes place after the Mayor calls three (3) times for nominations from the Councilmembers and closes nominations. Historically, a nomination is made and seconded, but no vote taken on the nomination.

The Common Council then determines whether a voice vote or secret ballot will be used to elect the Council President. After the determination, the Mayor entertains a motion and second for a candidate. A voice vote or secret ballot would be done following the motion. If the motion fails, the process is repeated.

For reference purposes, City Ordinance 36.4 and Statute 19.88(1) are shown below.

§ 36-4 President of Council. - The Common Council, at its first meeting subsequent to the regular election and qualification of new members, shall, after organization, choose from its members a President, who in the absence of the Mayor shall preside at meetings of the Council and during the absence or inability of the Mayor shall have the powers and duties of the Mayor, except that he shall not have power to approve an act of the Council which the Mayor has disapproved by filing objections with the Cleric-Treasurer. He shall, when so officiating, be styled "Acting Mayor."

Wisconsin State Statute 19.88 (1) - Unless otherwise specifically provided by statutes, no secret ballot may be utilized to determine any election or other decision of a governmental body except the election of the officers of such body in any meeting.

Options

1. To elect the Council President by secret ballot.
2. To elect the Council President by a majority roll call voice vote.
3. To take any other lawful action.

Recommendation

Due to the policy nature of this issue, no staff recommendation is provided.

Mayor and Council			
Harlan Dodge, Mayor	715-234-4611		
	30 E Eau Claire St Rice Lake WI 54868	(c) 715-931-0466	mayor@ricelakegov.org
Abbey E. Fischer, District 1 Councilmember	715-205-1487		
	27 Highland St, Rice Lake, WI 54868		afischer@ricelakegov.org
Eric Pelle, District 2 Councilmember	715-651-8010		
	1311 Lakeshore Dr, Rice Lake, WI 54868		epelle@ricelakegov.org
Steve Bowman, District 3 Councilmember	715-491-1515		
	15 Royal Crest Dr, Rice Lake, WI 54868		sbowman@ricelakegov.org
D. Puthoff, District 4 Councilmember			
	301 E Coleman St, Rice Lake, WI 54868		dputhoff@ricelakegov.org
Marlene Dirkes, At-Large Councilmember	715-651-0332		
	23 E Gates St, Rice Lake, WI 54868		mdirkes@ricelakegov.org
Todd A Larson, At-Large Councilmember	715-234-6997		
	36 W Knapp St Rice Lake WI 54868		tlarson@ricelakegov.org
James Resac, At-Large Councilmember	715-415-3641		
	919 N Wisconsin Ave, Rice Lake WI 54868		jresac@ricelakegov.org
Shasta Westaby, At-Large Councilmember	715-719-0213		
	704 Cornell Ave, Rice Lake WI 54868		swestaby@ricelakegov.org
City Hall Closed - Legal Holidays			
January 1	Memorial Day	July 4	Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day	Friday After Thanksgiving	December 24	December 25
Departments			
Administration Department, City Hall, 30 E Eau Claire Street, Rice Lake WI			715-234-7088
SJ Johnson, City Administrator	715-234-3454		
	(c) 715-296-1036		sjohnson@ricelakegov.org
Julie A. Kessler, City Clerk-Treasurer	715-234-7089		
	(c) 715-790-1728		jkessler@ricelakegov.org
Shannon Ullom, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer	715-234-7877		
			sullom@ricelakegov.org
Eric T. Kasper, Municipal Judge	715-234-1989		

Christine Thom, Muncipal Court/ERefuse Billing Clerk	715-234-1989	ekasper@ricelakegov.org
Bill Koepp, Contracted Building Inspector	715-296-8866	cthom@ricelakegov.org (f) 715-234-6829 bldginsp@ricelakegov.org
Justin Servin, Contracted Assessor	920-749-1995 ext 8813	jservin@apraz.com
Chippewa County Housing Authority, Contracted CDBG Housing Program Admin	715-726-7935	(f) 715-726-7936 jolesonbue@co.chippewa.wi.us
Community Services Department (Streets, Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries) -		715-234-7402
James S Anderson, Director	715-234-8215	(f) 715-236-2101
	(c) 715-296-8738	janderson@ricelakegov.org
vacant, Recreation Coordinator	715-234-9235	(f) 715-236-2101
	(c) 715-931-7296	jgrilley@ricelakegov.org
Fire Department Department - 34 S Wilson Avenue, Rice Lake WI 54868		715-234-2119
Michael Hover, Chief	715-234-6641	(f) 715-234-6366
	715-234-2119	rfdmlh@ricelakegov.org
Police Department - 34 S Wilson Avenue, Rice Lake WI 54868		715-234-2116
Steven G Roux, Chief	715-234-2116	(f) 715-236-4684
	715-234-5248	rlpdsgr@ricelakegov.org
Public Access Television - 325 N Main St Rice Lake WI 54868		
James Wyngaard, Director	715-234-8077	(f) 715-234-8077 cable@ricelakegov.org
Rice Lake Housing Authority - 132 W Marshall St Rice Lake WI 54868		
Matthew Bay, Director	715-234-3721	(f) 715-236-7549 rlphad@chibardun.net
Rice Lake Public Library - 2 E Marshall Street, Rice Lake WI 54868		715-234-4861
Rachel Thomas, Director	715-234-4861 option 6	(f) 715-236-5026
	(c) 715-651-2169	rthomas@ricelakegov.org
Rice Lake Regional Airport - 1872 14 ½ Ave Cameron WI 54822		(f) 715-458-4452
	715-458-4400	rp@ricelakeairport.com

Rice Lake Utilities - 320 W Coleman Street, Rice Lake WI 54868		715-234-7004
Tim Aaby, General Manager	715-234-7004 (c) 715-651-0308	(f) 715-236-7934 tima@ricelakeutilities.com
Municipal Legal Counsel		
Paul Mahler, Legal Counsel, Bakke Norman Law Office	715-246-3800	(f) 815-9274-0411 PMahler@bakkenorman.com
Lindsey Kohls, Assistant Legal Counsel	715-231-4728	lkohls@bakkenorman.com
Brittany Stephens, Municipal Court Prosecution, Koehler & Stephens Law Office	715-234-2128	bes@kmlolaw.com
Mayoral Commission / Committee Appointments		
Airport Committee - 2 Year Term	Chair and Secretary Selection by Committee	
Jason Erb, Non-City Resident, Chair	April 2026	715-651-0198
Harlan Dodge, City Resident	April 2026	715-296-0485
Mark Johnson Jr, City Resident	April 2026	715-234-6492
Cory Schnacky, City Resident	April 2027	
Marv Thompson, City Resident	April 2027	715-234-7126
Mark O'Brien, City Resident	April 2027	715-736-7800
Shasta Westaby, Council Rep	April 2027	715-719-0213
Barron County Economic Development Corp		
Harlan Dodge, City Resident	April 2025	715-296-0485
Board of Review - 1 Year Term	Statute 70.46 and Ordinance 7-1	
Harlan Dodge, Mayor	April 2026	715-234-4611
Mike Bigner, City Resident	April 2026	
James Resac, Council Rep	April 2026	
Marlene Dirkes, Council Rep	April 2026	
Steve Bowman, Council Rep	April 2026	
Business Improvement District - 3 Year Term	Ordinance 7-16 - Officers Selection by BID Members	
Shaun Carr, Owner, Chair	April 2028	715-234-7118
Desmond Benavides, Renter	April 2028	
Rick Vesper, Owner	April 2027	715-234-9324
Chris Olsen, Owner	April 2027	715-234-1790
Nick Sockness, Owner	April 2027	

Bobbi Nelson, Renter	April 2027	
Patty Butler, Renter	April 2027	
Cable Commission - 3 Year Term	Ordinance 7-15 - Council Rep serves as Secretary, President and Vice President Selected by Commission	
Al Arnold, City Resident	April 2026	
Gina Sookiayak, City Resident, Vice President	April 2027	715-418-9024
Paul Irhcke, City Resident	April 2028	
Amy Meyers, City Resident	April 2027	
Shasta Westaby, Council Rep, Secretary	April 2026	
Extraterritorial Zoning - 1 Year Term	Ordinance 7-12	
Marvin Thompson, City Resident	April 2026	
Oscar Chamberlain, City Rep	April 2026	
Dana Heller, City Rep	April 2026	
Finance Committee - 1 Year Term	Ordinance 36-5 - Chair Designated by Mayor	
James Resac	April 2026	
Shasta Westaby	April 2026	
Eric Pelle	April 2026	
Health Insurance Advisory/Board		
Todd Larson, Non-Voting Council Rep	April 2026	715-234-6997
Housing Authority - 5 Year Term	Ordinance 7-10 - Officers Selected by Commission	
Mike Kovacevich, City Resident, Vice-Chair	April 2023	715-736-0389
Beverly Buckner, City Resident, Secretary-Treasurer	April 2024	
Robert Mayer, City Resident, Chair	April 2023	715-234-8441
Mary Ann Wirsbinski, City Resident	April 2025	715-234-8248
Lynda Sirianni, Tenant	April 2026	
D. Puthoff, Council Rep	April 2026	715-475-1624
Joint Review Board		
Andrew Albarado - Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Rep, Chair		
Pat Blackaller - Rice Lake Area School District		
Dana Heller - Barron County Rep		
Doug Edwardsen, Citizen Member	term does not expire	

James Resac, City of RL Rep	April 2026	
Lake Improvement District - 4 Year Term		
Doug Edwardsen, Council Rep	April 2022	715-719-0317
Library Board - 3, 2 or 1 Year Term		
Ordinance 7-2 - Officers Selected by Board		
Amanda Morey, City Resident, President	July 2025	
Chris Fitzgerald, City Resident, Vice President	July 2025	
Jane Thompson, City Resident	July 2026	
Abbey Fischer, City Resident	July 2026	
Marsha Scherz, School Board Rep	July 2023	
Melissa Kozma, Friends of the Library Rep	July 2022	
Abbey Fischer, Council Rep	April 2026	
Main Street Association		
Steve Bowman, Council Rep	April 2026	
Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries - 4 Year Term		
Ordinance 7-6 - Councilmember Serves as Chair		
D. Puthoff, Council Rep, Chair	April 2026	
Wayne Rado, City Resident	April 2027	
Ron Kay, City Resident	April 2026	
Craig Fowler, City Resident	April 2026	
Jennifer Fonfara, City Resident	April 2026	
Sam Williams, City Resident	April 2028	
Dennis Villeneuve, Non-Competitive Recreation Activities, Rep	April 2027	
School District Rep	school appoints	
Personnel and Negotiating Committee - 1 Year Term		
Ordinance 36-5 - Chair Designated by Mayor		
Todd Larson, Council Rep, Chair	April 2026	
Steve Bowman, Council Rep	April 2026	
Abbey Fischer, Council Rep	April 2026	
Plan Commission - 3 Year Term		
Ordinance 7-5 - Mayor Serves as Chair, other Officers by Commission Selection		
Harlan Dodge, Mayor, Chair	April 2026	
Oscar Chamberlain, City Resident	April 2028	715-234-5021
Josh Peterson, City Resident	April 2028	715-296-3058

Dana Heller, City Resident	April 2027	715-736-3636
Marvin Thompson, City Resident	April 2027	715-234-7126
Marlene Dirkes, Council Rep	April 2026	
D. Puthoff, PRC Chair	April 2026	
Police & Fire Commission - 5 Year Term	Statute 62.13	
Larry Tripp, City Resident, Chair	April 2026	
Dick Nelson, City Resident	April 2027	
Ken DeNucci, City Resident	April 2028	
Larry Williams, City Resident	April 2029	
Bruce Meder, City Resident	April 2030	
Public Works Appeal Board - 3 Year Term		
Justin Selzler, City Resident	April 2028	
Jim Mueller, City Resident	April 2027	
Todd Larson, Council Rep, Chair	April 2026	
Tourism and Retail Development - 2 Year Term	Ordinance 7-13 - Officers Selected per Commission Bylaws	
Dana Heller, Chair, City Resident	April 2026	
Becky Squires, Hotel/Motel Operator	April 2026	
Justine Bundgard, City Resident	April 2026	
Marie Nett, Mall Manager	April 2025	
Eric Pelle, Council Rep	April 2026	
Utility Commission (Oct Appointment) - 5 Year Term	Ordinance 263.3 - Officer Selection Per Commission	
Susan Dietz, City Resident, Chair	October 2030	715-234-2528
James Muller, City Resident	October 2026	
Keith Moffatt, City Resident	October 2030	
Joe Huftel, Service Resident	October 2028	
Marlene Dirkes, Council Rep	April 2026	
Zoning Board of Appeals - 3 Year Term	Ordinance 7-4 - Chair Designated by Mayor	
Dana Heller, Chair, City Resident	April 2027	
Heinz Eller, City Resident	April 2027	
David Dinger, City Resident	April 2027	

Mike Diercks, City Resident	April 2027
Bruce Willers, City Resident	April 2027
Frank Clark, City Resident, Alt 1	April 2027
Harold Dodge, City Resident, Alt 2	April 2027

Other Important Numbers

Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce	715-234-2128	
Department of Motor Vehicles	800-924-3570	
Rice Lake Post Office	715-234-2294	
Rice Lake Food Pantry (<i>Emergency Contact</i>)	715-234-8453	715-234-2332
Republic Services	715-736-0003	