ORDINANCE NO. 6352

AN ORDINANCE REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A RUNOFF ELECTION FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES BY REPEALING SECTION 1.16.030 OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2009, state law was changed to no longer require a runoff election where no candidate for municipal office received more than 50% of the votes cast; and

WHEREAS, in response to the change in state law, the City of Rapid City adopted Ordinance #5520 which requires a runoff election if any candidate for municipal office receives less than 50% of the votes cast; and

WHEREAS, there have been nine (9) runoff elections held for municipal office since 2009 when Ordinance #5520 was adopted; and

WHEREAS, in the nine elections held pursuant to this ordinance, the person who received the highest number of votes in the original election was also the candidate elected in the runoff election; and

WHEREAS, the City is required to pay the cost of municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, in the last election cycle the regular municipal election cost the City $57,709.17* and the runoff election cost an additional $25,689.05* (* - These amounts are not yet final, so may change slightly); and

WHEREAS, the voter turnout in municipal elections is generally low, and is even lower for runoff elections; and

WHEREAS, the fact that the result of every election for municipal office would have been the same if Ordinance #5520 had never been adopted makes it difficult to justify the additional expense of having a runoff election; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Rapid City finds it is in the City’s best interests to no longer require a runoff election by repealing Section 1.16.030 of the Rapid City Municipal Code (RCMC).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that Section 1.16.030 of the RCMC requiring a candidate for municipal office receive a majority of the votes cast in the race in order to be elected be and hereby is repealed.
CITY OF RAPID CITY

____________________________________
Steve Allender, Mayor

ATTEST:

___________________________________
Pauline Sumption, Finance Officer

(SEAL)

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Published:
Effective: