MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission, City Council

FROM: Ken Young, Community Development Director
        Sarah Hanzel, Long Range Planner III

DATE: 8/22/19

RE: Resolution Adopting the Rapid City Affordable Housing Policy

Housing affordability is a critical issue facing Rapid City. A Housing Affordability Study completed by the Black Hills Knowledge network in 2018 was conducted to help the Rapid City community understand the local need for affordable housing. Among other findings, it identified that affordable housing was in short supply for low-income households in the Rapid City market area.

There are many factors which affect housing affordability; however, the City should pursue providing as many practical and necessary strategies as possible to promote affordable housing situations in the community. The affordable housing policy is a brief summary of actions that the Community Development Department, in coordination with other City departments and community stakeholders, can further explore, refine and ultimately implement to reduce the barriers to affordable housing development. In approving this Policy, the Council is directing City staff and resources to further develop an affordable housing strategic plan, as well as work to develop revisions to various development regulations.

A public survey was distributed on the Survey Monkey platform to get community input on affordable housing and potential strategies to increase the supply of affordable housing. Nearly 1,000 people have taken the survey. A summary of those results to date are linked. Of note 80% of respondents strongly agreed that more affordable housing options are needed in Rapid City.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution Adopting the Rapid City Affordable Housing Policy