Please shut down Rapid City before the virus seriously hits us. It is coming and it will not be pretty. My mother has serious health issues and I know she will not make it if she is infected with Corona. I have put her on lock down. I'm trying to keep her and the rest of us safe. However people keep sharing the virus in Rapid because the town is still open. People are out everywhere. It's all about the money of shutting the town down. Question. When this is all over how are business going to operate when there are no customers because we are all dead? How will Rapid survive thousands of people dead as you know well Monument is not equipped to handle an outbreak. Half the hospital levels/pods are always closed as there are not enough staff to work them. There is no way our one hospital can handle what is on its way. Please shut us down. Mandatory stay at home. A lot of people are going to die if you don't.
Name: Charles Baker
Address: [Redacted]
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: COVID 19
Comment:

On April 1, 2020, Surgeon General Jerome Adams advised that the federal government's "30 Days to Slow the Spread" guidelines amount to a national stay-at-home order. South Dakota is 1 of 5 states without any stay-at-home orders in place. Regardless of the Governor's poor decision to be reactive, our city can be proactive. This community's lives are in your hands. Do something about it.
Comment:

I am interested in knowing what we have set as guidelines as to what businesses are considered essential and if we are enforcing any protocols to help ensure employees safety. As it was stated by the Mayor, you should just quit if you feel the work environment is not safe, most of us do not have the ability to do so. If a store has the ability to go curbside we should try to guide business to do so, and make sure we think about all of our workers. There is no sense in risking people's lives for things like a hamster or a fish. I am a concerned employee who doesn't feel like my work environment nor the people coming into my place of work are taking this seriously. Please help your citizens that work in corporate settings aswell.
Name: Barbara Dunfee
Address: 4215 Cedar Ridge Place
          Apartment 54
          Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: extending closures
Comment:
Please extend the ordinance for closure of businesses where people congregate. While many people are staying home except for obtaining necessities, and many businesses are being proactive in limiting contact and encouraging social distancing, far too many people are still not taking this seriously. The only significant leadership we are getting on this is coming from the city, our state lawmakers are abdicating responsibility. Please continue to have the courage to be ahead of this issue and protect the citizenship of Rapid City.
Hello. I was wondering if you had considered temporarily easing and/or changing restrictions and permits for RVs? With people having a hard time paying rent etc. they could stay on family property. Also there is a movement to allow medical staff to use RVS that are sitting idle so they can social distance from family but still be nearby. https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/us/coronavirus-rvs-4-mds-healthcare-isolate-trnd/index.html?ofsfbii&fbclid=IwAR2bLkZloumbiKkZPGa20VlhVtscdUkX7I6b7-etOER3fP0OnVgU2su8nQ
Name: Cindy Sullivan
Address: [redacted]
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item:
Comment:
MAYOR ALLENDER GET ON BOARD AND MAKE OUR COMMUNITY SAFE. BE SMART. ENFORCE THE STAY AT HOME POLICY. I AM A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. HELP US KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.
Good Evening

This recent ordinance impacting business in the food service and entertainment sectors of the city, while unfortunate, may be having a notable effect in keeping the spread of Covid-19 at relatively low levels through the peak, which is expected by early to mid May. Though it is quite unsustainable in the long term, it is keeping large gatherings of people down, and most businesses have adjusted to it by offering carryout or delivery services or, in some instances, closing down until the ordinance expires. Recent legislation passed by congress and signed into law by the president will be very helpful in assisting those businesses who can't stay open get through this process until they can reopen. I would however caution the mayor and council to avoid extending the ordinance past the 60 day timeframe. The economic losses in such a situation, particularly as tourism season ramps up, would be staggering.
A number of businesses in the city have closed due to the "social distancing" precautions including stores and restaurants. Despite the fact that these people don't have any income due to not being able to work rental companies within the city are still expecting full rental payments on the due date. This is going to cause an undue issue with a number of people losing their housing increasing the strain of homelessness within the city. This is not an acceptable situation as the closures of these businesses is not the fault of the employees instead an "act of god." The number of people within Rapid City who live paycheck to paycheck is staggering. The city needs to either pressure the rental companies/owners to accept no rent during the "quarantine" time OR needs to contact the state/federal government to assist in paying the rents for those who are being affected by the Covid-19 issue.
My friend is disabled a mother of 3 has only one arm and one leg. Her landlord of the Curtis Street accepted her rent for this month but mailed a letter of Termination for Criminal Mischief which occurred while her husband was around abusive, whom is no longer in the home. She has a small vehicle barely running family came and got her children and took them back to the reservation until this is handled. She is on a fixed income and has asthma and other health issues PTSD. She is devastated and scared she can’t handle getting upset and sick and being separated from her children. All’s we are asking is for more time and consideration due to her disability this Coronavirus and Covid-19 has everyone scared please is there any way you can contact this landlord and ask for an extension. I applaud all of you in your efforts to contain this. May God Bless all of you and your families Sincerely and Thank you she can be reached at <redacted>
Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I write to you knowing that many people are frustrated that South Dakota is one of the eleven States that is not currently under a stay-at-home order. Although our governor clearly has the rights to issue such an order according to state codified law, she is choosing not to as of today, April 2nd.

On behalf of our Frontline medical workers, Police officers, firefighters and other essential workers, along with the many people who are at risk in Rapid City, I implore you to take the brave step of enacting a stay-at-home order for Rapid City or at least 2 weeks has we anticipate the peak of this virus.

Leadership requires making difficult and often unpopular decisions. But for the safety of all Rapid City citizens, I prayerfully request that the council and mayor enact a stay-at-home order for the city for two weeks. It will be a difficult decision, but in the end it will save lives.

Holly Sortland
Comment:
I am wondering why it seems all we ever hear about is the doom and gloom part of this pandemic. We need some good news also. I think that hearing things like 70% of all South Dakotans are going to get this virus is a little harsh. It seems like the people recovering are not even mentioned. And it seems to be a very unpredictable virus but we shouldn't have to live in fear of that. Yes we need to use common sense and stay home if we are sick, but I also firmly believe that restaurants should be able to open with the social distancing in mind. Stores should start to re-open with the same thing in mind. We are South Dakota, we are rapid city and we are strong and we can overcome this but people shouldn't have to live in fear.