Full Name: Andrea Palmer
Full Address: 4534 Parkview Dr
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item (for comment on a specific item)): Backyard Hens
Comment: We want backyard hens! Taking note of my council man Pat Jones vote and remembering it for 2023!
Full Name: Betty Backus
Full Address: 3505 Cypress Ct/ Rapid City SD 57701
Meeting: Legal and Finance
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item (for comment on a specific item)): LF093020-04
Comment: Regarding the proposed change to Ordinance No. 6445 - The proposed changes to Section 6 item C3 address protecting the chickens from predators, yet fails to consider that the chickens will attract predators who may cause harm to children and family pets in the neighboring yards. Item C6 states that feed will be stored and dispensed in a rodent and predator proof container - I don't believe there is a way to dispense feed without some feed accumulating on the ground, thus attracting unwanted predators. I am against the proposed change allowing chickens to be kept in the City of Rapid City. Public comment is sometimes made by people who are not living in the City of Rapid City and will therefore not live with the outcome from the changes to this ordinance, I therefore feel their comments should be disregarded.
Comment: I cannot support this Ordinance as most citizens derive no direct benefit. The current city budget reflects a 44% dependence on sales tax revenues generated by a 2% tax on all purchases including food purchases. US Census Bureau estimates 10,210 people in our city live at or below the poverty level and face monthly food costs between $890-$1,062. I am unable to justify using of any portion of the sales taxes paid by families that face food insecurities daily to support a program that financially prohibits their participation. Chicken coops can cost between $165 to $4,000 and monthly food costs between $30 to $150. I believe that our tax dollars cannot be expended on a program that serves the wants of a few versus the needs of the many. However, should Council elect to approve it, please stipulate that the program be fully funded/supported via user fees, no city tax dollars should be expended for this program.