

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-080

A RESOLUTION CREATING A TRIAL PROGRAM FOR CONDUCT OF OFFICIAL CITY BUSINESS BY COMBINING THE CITY'S CURRENT PUBLIC WORKS AND LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS INTO A JOINT COUNCIL WORKING SESSION.

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City (the "City") currently has two standing committees which review and make recommendations for items of City business before they are debated and acted on by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, half the City's alderman serve on each committee which both meet the week before a City Council meeting; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the committees is to provide an opportunity for alderman to ask questions and generally educate themselves on issues coming before the City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting, and

WHEREAS, other communities conduct similar work through a committee of the entire body, or through regularly scheduled working sessions; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of working sessions is for alderman to educate themselves on issues, have more in-depth discussions on policy and important projects, and decide what issues should move forward to the regular meeting of the City Council for formal action; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it would be in the City's best interests to implement a trial program where instead of City business being initially discussed in two separate committees composed of only half of the alderman, that the responsibilities of the two committees be combined into a working session comprising a committee of the entire City Council; and

WHEREAS, some of the advantages of a working session consisting of the entire City Council are that it would require fewer meetings for the elected officials and staff, and would allow the entire City Council to weigh in and vet important issues in the preliminary stages of discussion, rather than rely on only half of the City Council to do so; and

WHEREAS, even though the working sessions will have a quorum of the City Council present, the purpose of these meetings will be education and discussion of the City Council and no formal action will be taken on any item other than to make recommendations or give direction to City staff, or determine what matters being considered are ready to be sent to the regular City Council meeting for final debate and approval or denial; and

WHEREAS, the working sessions covered by this resolution are public meetings and subject to the state's open meeting laws.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Rapid City, that the current Legal & Finance and Public Works Committees be combined into a committee of the whole whose meetings will be designated as working sessions. The purpose of these meetings will be to allow in-depth discussion on City policies and items of regular business prior to final consideration and approval at a regular meeting of the City Council and to give direction and make recommendations to staff regarding City business. No formal or final action will be taken on any item on the committee's agenda other than to make recommendations or give direction to City staff, or send a matter being considered to the regular City Council meeting for final debate and approval. While no formal action will be taken on any item on the agenda of a working session, this will not prohibit the City Council from setting a special meeting that is contemporaneous with the working session at which formal action can be taken on a matter before the City Council. Such special meeting shall be set consistent with state law for the setting of such meetings and noticed separately from any notice provided for the working session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any reference in City ordinance, resolution, or policy that directs that an item be considered by the City's current Legal & Finance or Public Works Committees will be sent to a working session for review and consideration in lieu of review by one of the current committees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at least one working session shall be held prior to all regularly scheduled meetings of the City Council at a time and place determined by the City Council. Working Sessions are public meetings and the time and place of the working session, along with a proposed agenda, will be properly noticed in compliance with state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The City Council may develop and adopt rules and procedures for the conduct of these meetings and the form of the agenda.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is intended that this change be a trial program which will be reviewed occasionally to determine if it will continue. While the City Council can end these changes at any time, if no formal action is taken within a year, the Council shall review the program and shall determine whether to end the use of work sessions and go back to the previous committee structure or some modified form thereof, continue the current trial program for another specified term, or direct that staff bring forward the appropriate ordinance and policy changes to make the committee structure created by this resolution permanent.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2020.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Steve Allender, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pauline Sumption, Finance Director

(SEAL)