MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Rapid City Common Council
FROM: Rapid City Youth City Council
DATE: 10 November 2020

RE: Ordinance 6445

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KEEPING OF HENS ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE CITY BY AMENDING SECTION 6.08.020 OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.

1. Purpose of Memorandum
   1.1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Rapid City Common Council perspective from the Rapid City Youth City Council.
   1.2. This memorandum directly relates to the proposed Ordinance No. 6445 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KEEPING OF HENS ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE CITY BY AMENDING SECTION 6.08.020 OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.

2. Executive Summary
   2.1. During the regularly scheduled Rapid City Youth City Council meeting on the 13th of October 2020, the topic of authorizing the keeping hens was brought forth as an approved agenda item. During this meeting public comment was heard from three supporters of the proposed ordinance. After some brief discussion around the agenda item, it was referred to the Environment Committee of the Rapid City Youth City Council. The Environment Committee of the Rapid City Youth City Council reviewed the proposed ordinance in full. Members took into consideration verbal and written testimony (LF093020-04 Public Comments Regarding Hens, LF093020-04 Humane Society of the Black Hills Letter for Council, LF093020-04 Paper on Urban Chicken Laws). The Rapid City Youth City Council addresses this issue with the lens of balancing responsibility to all community members; and “to create an eco-friendly community” (Vision Statement- Environment Committee of the Rapid City Youth City Council). The findings of the Environment Committee of the Rapid City Youth City Council and this subsequent memorandum were presented to the Rapid City Youth City Council at large for further input and approval. The findings of the Rapid City Youth City Council are further discussed in this memorandum to the Rapid City Common Council with input and voice from youth of the City. The Rapid City Youth City Council supports the goal behind proposed Ordinance No. 6445.
3. Proposed Action

3.1. Members of the Rapid City Youth City Council encourage the Rapid City Common Council to support measures that allow for the safe and humane ownership of up to six (6) hens within the City.

4. Discussion

4.1. Keeping hens in the city creates awareness of and opportunity for individuals to be involved in eco-sustainable food production.

4.2. This ordinance opens opportunities for further youth participation in agricultural related activities and organizations.

4.3. Increased risk for disease dissemination is a potential factor that must be met with adherence to the ordinance provisions for “clean and sanitary conditions.”

4.4. Clear regulations and enforcement measures are important to maintaining a community free of public nuisances.

4.5. A provision for licensing requirements and associated fee structure could be a potential item for review by the City should it be deemed necessary.

5. Implications

5.1. The Rapid City Youth City Council gives its support to the proposed Ordinance No. 6445 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KEEPING OF HENS ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE CITY BY AMENDING SECTION 6.08.020 OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.

5.2. The Rapid City Youth City Council appreciates and publicly thanks those who have shared verbal and written testimony on this matter.

5.3. The Rapid City Youth City Council remains available to the Rapid City Common Council for further review and clarification on the matter.

Respectfully Submitted this 10th day of November 2020.

RAPID CITY YOUTH CITY COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Kiran Kelly, Co-Chair
Grace Bradley, Co-Chair

Hannah Churchill, Chair
Jordyn Kokesh, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Jocelyn Konechne, Secretary