Name: Georgene Roselles
Address: 840 N Spruce St #367
Rapid City, SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mandate
Comment:

I live on the Northside of town and am opposed to mandate for the city. Most all places are already doing it so what is the point of this? The police here have enough to do and to make it their responsibility to enforce this mandate is useless.

We have a certain number of homeless that have nothing who won’t pay a fine or care what you impose. If this does go into effect their will be calls to police to patrol and fine those or just leave an officer on the corner of Spruce and N.Street.
Name: marcia diagostine
Address: 12699 osprey trail, hill city, sd
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask mandate
Comment:
I strongly believe a mask mandate should be in place.
Name: Laura Botkins
Address: 4352 Fieldstone Dr
Rapid City, SD 57703
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
As a healthcare worker, I know that masks work. We see COVID patients daily and if they did not work, everyone in direct patient care would have already contracted COVID. A mask mandate is necessary. The mandate needs teeth. This past weekend when I was at Walmart masked shopping for Thanksgiving I saw at least half a dozen individuals inside without a mask. Walmart has a mask mandate; but as far as I can tell they don't enforce the mandate. If a mandate is put in place without enforcement, I am afraid the same thing would happen throughout our community. I don't want the providers at Monument and the Great Plains to get the point of having to triage their patients determining who gets the chance to live based off of comorbidities and age because there is no other option. The community should assist in ensuring their citizens are masked. Thank you.
Name: JENNIFER OWEN

Address: 1091 TINTON LN
RAPID CITY, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

As a high risk individual, I implore the city council to make a mask mandate. This isn't a matter of liberal vs conservative. Our hospitals are full and people are dying.
Comment:

I am a high-risk person whose job requires her to leave the house. I don’t have the option to remain home and quarantine. Before my workplace mandated masks, my coworkers refused to wear masks, citing personal freedoms. I respect personal freedom, but their choices literally endangered my life as well as one of my coworkers, who is undergoing chemo. Without the mask mandates at work, I would face the agonizing decision of putting my life at risk or quitting my job and not being able to pay my bills and feed my family.

Please, please require a mask of everyone in public spaces. This isn't just about personal freedoms; it's about caring enough about our community members to keep them safe. Thank you.
While I do not live in Rapid City, I do shop and do a significant amount of business in Rapid City. I am speaking out AGAINST any mandatory mask mandates. It is a violation of my rights and a restriction of my personal freedoms that are protected in the federal and state constitutions. There is not enough evidence that masks actually slow the spread of any virus. In fact, it is not safe at all for healthy people to wear masks!

If an individual feels safer wearing a mask, social distancing, staying home, etc, then that is their right as an american citizen to do so. And those same rights are granted to an individual that does not feel safe wearing a mask, social distancing, staying home. It is also infringing on the rights of businesses to MANDATE they require their staff and patrons to wear masks. Let businesses and persons choose.
Name: Patsy Hanson
Address: 714 E OHIO ST
Rapid City, SD  57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
Thank you for passing the mask mandate at the first reading.
Last week, my mother passed away. The family felt obligated to forego a funeral service for the safety of our family and friends. Too many family gatherings of any type run the risk of being covid-19 spreading events. It was one of the hardest decisions we have ever had to make. If people were required to wear masks, covid-19 numbers would invariably go down, and other families could be spared from having to make such a difficult decision.
I will not be attending the second reading due to limited space, etc, but would like to say that masks have been scientifically proven to be our best defense in the Covid-19 fight. Please set a positive leadership example and pass the second reading to help get this terrible virus under control.
Name: Jeremy Schad
Address: 832 ziebach street
Rapid City SD 57703
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance
Comment:
I am 100% in favor of a mask ordinance for Rapid City. I’ve lost my wife’s grandmother, multiple friends and several customers to death as a result of Covid 19. Wearing a mask is the least I can do to save a life, does wearing a 5 gallon pail on my head save a life.....I’ll do it. I appreciate the 5 supporters of the mandate, the remainder aren’t voting with their constituents, they are voting off their personal agenda. Thanks
Name: Mimi Lancsak
Address: 714 Wood Ave, Rapid City, SD.
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: mask mandate
Comment:
From the pandemic start I haven’t worn a mask, haven’t nor do have covid. I am 62, have emphysema and other health issues, take proactive steps and social distance. One would think it beneficial to mask, in my case No. I cannot breathe with it on, black out for lack of oxygen, my blood pressure drops. I’m not denying there is an illness or deaths. It should be a personal choice to wear a mask. People are being caught in the middle–mandates are made for public contact, then people were to stay home, then mandates for the home. Can’t have it both ways. Even with a medical letter stating the mask is not good for me, I am judged. If people wearing the mask feel not protected enough, then stay home. Masks must be fitted properly anyway. Everyone is concerned about getting covid. Pre-covid, I have difficulty breathing but no one cares. Don’t let those trying to force away our freedoms by instilling fear do that. Protect the Constitution.
I do not believe a mask mandate should be placed, enforced in Rapid City. For those of us who do have medical letters stating why we are not wearing masks are already being harassed and denied services. Our right to our health is being denied. I see signs stating masks are for everyone's health be kind, but kind is not what I receive when I state my medical conditions prevent me from wearing one, I even show them a medical letter. In that case I am told well then your health does not matter so the statement for the health of everyone is a lie and the statement should not be allowed to be used. Where is the concern and enforcement of government to those businesses and people who treat those of us with medical conditions down rite rudely and inhumanely. I am not against people who do wear masks, I am 100% against mandated masks and denial of service.
Name: Rhonda Anderson
Address: 4985 S Pitch Dr
Rapid City Sd 57703
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
I am asking you to please vote no on the mask mandate.
I do not agree with forcing everyone to wear one. I do believe people have the right to wear one if they feel uncomfortable. But for those of us that are heathy we should have a choice too.
Please listen to the public and vote based on what people are asking you. I’m hoping you vote based on this, not on how you feel about it. I know your job is not easy and I appreciate everything you all have done for us! Also, please try and respect each other and the public.
I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments.
Name: Roseanna Renaud
Address: 4924 Shelby Ave #203
Rapid City, SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance
Comment:
I’ll just let this number represent my position on the Mask Ordinance. 817. 817 South Dakotans DIED from Covid. These people mattered. Be a better human & take responsibility during this worldwide pandemic where South Dakota continually sits atop the Covid caseload.
Name: Laura Piening
Address: 1711 Moon Meadows Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Ordinance No. 6453
Comment:
Council’s decision to pursue a mandatory mask requirement is disappointing. I read the ordinance and understand your perspective and intention.

It is based on fear and aligned with one side of a political agenda. Comments opposing it should not be used to classify me into one box or another.

I am an American. I moved here, because I like open space and the sense of pioneering spirit and freedom I feel. I have met many kind and decent people.

It is wrong for a government to seek to control the rights and freedom of its citizens. We are smart and caring enough to take the precautions needed to keep ourselves safe.

Irresponsible people are a very small minority, whose behavior will not be curbed by this ordinance.

Only the freedom and self-respect of those of us who do the right thing, because we care about ourselves and our community, will be limited.

Please halt this ordinance now. Respect your citizens. Thank you.
Comment:

I'm in-between forcing masks on people. We are all struggling and a fine is not a way to show support. ENFORCING masks are going to make others rage. Adults can make their own decisions. And I think this is going to get worse before it gets better. But showing healthy masking guidelines is better than forcing money out of hardworking communities, and making others feel childish like adults can't make their own decisions. I don't think this is the right way to approach the situation.
Peru has had a mask mandate since April, and it has been described as the most draconian mandate in the world, being enforced on their own people by their military. Yet their infection rate climbed and climbed after their mask mandate.

I'm wondering what sorcery can be employed in Rapid City to make our face diapers work better than the ones in Peru did. Real-world science is crystal clear: MASKS. DON'T. WORK.

https://rationalground.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/9-17-Peru-1024x751.png
Name: KENNETH Coleman
Address: 6036 NUGGET GULCH RD
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
The concern I have with a mandatory mask mandate is with the word mandatory. If you are going to require people to wear a mask, you must provide a mask to all people. You will also have to provide instructions on wearing the mask, cleaning the mask and how long that mask will be effective.

From FDA's Website:

"Surgical masks are not intended to be used more than once. If your mask is damaged or soiled, or if breathing through the mask becomes difficult, you should remove the face mask, discard it safely, and replace it with a new one. To safely discard your mask, place it in a plastic bag and put it in the trash. Wash your hands after handling the used mask.

Do not pass this second reading. The people are not safely wearing masks and do not have the means necessary to keep up with the FDA's requirements to wearing masks.

Look at your dirty mask and ask yourself......is their covid on this mask.
Name: Peter Ostler MD
Address: 1588 Bristol Ct.
Rapid City, SD, 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Covid19 Mask Mandate
Comment:
The mask mandate in Rapid City is of critical importance! Please vote yes on a mandate for masks to help slow the spread and to decrease the burden on the already stretched thin medical resources in our community!
Name: Elizabeth Ostler
Address: 1588 Bristol Ct
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: Mask mandate
Comment:
Please protect our neighbors by insisting on a mask mandate. We are a state with less than 50% mask usage. Lead out as true leaders by being proactive as a City Counsel to emphasize this simple act that can make a big impact to help our community. The hospital is stretched to it’s limits. Their staff are working as hard as they can, putting their lives on the line caring for their neighbors with COVID. Please give them a chance and decrease their load by requiring all of those who are on Rapid City to use masks! When healthcare is stretched to the max as it is currently, those with “regular” ailments don’t receive care as quickly as they otherwise would and may have to be sent out of state to receive care because of lack of ability to care for them here in town. Do the right thing and demand a mask mandate.
Name: Michelle Emmert
Address: 4802 Tanager Court
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
No to the mask mandate, if you need proof look no further than what is going on in Europe right now. They have had mask mandates, lockdowns and they are in the middle of a spike like most of the world is. Give us the ability to make our own decisions, not the government. I think we can handle it.
Name: Holly M Lemay
Address: 914 Fairview
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
Since when is not wearing a mask equivalent to speeding? Imposing up to a $500 fine and/or 30 days in jail for not wearing a mask is absolute insanity. If you are going to have a mask mandate do like Sioux Falls and have no penalty. This has gone well beyond government overreach.
Name: Karmon Beauto
Address: 832 Explorer St
Rapid City, SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:
I'm curious as to how the wearing of masks has been scientifically proven to prevent a virus. The FDA actually states the complete opposite. Shouldn't there be accurate evidence before a mandate? A COVID molecule is so minute that the mask unprotects and instead inhabits the virus. I experienced this when visiting a mandate state causing sickness for 4 days being a very healthy person. Have you called other states to research results? I guarantee you will be surprised. Mandating masks is taking away freedoms that were fought for by my personal family and that infuriates me. Being overweight is unhealthy, driving is dangerous, the flu can be deadly. Is it your job to protect these also? Wearing a mask should be a choice. This country is about freedom to choose. Our freedoms are being tested daily. Taking away liberties wouldn't have been tolerated 30 yrs ago when people acted upon facts and research before speaking and applying anything.
Name: Kathy Maguire
Address: 635 Texas Street Rapid City 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: face mask mandate

Comment:

Humanity: caring for and helping others whenever possible
Humanity: helping others at TIMES WHEN THEY NEED THE MOST HELP
Humanity: means forgetting our selfish interests at times when others need our help!

This is not a permanent situation that we are in right now but I feel that if we all practiced Humanity it may slow down the spread of this awful virus and take the fear out of me being next to a person that isn't wearing a mask.

Our Governor hasn't taken an aggressive stance to try to stop the spread of Covid so we need to stand up as a community and WEAR MASKS. I'm pretty certain that the majority would say they don't like wearing masks but it is the Humane thing to do for our fellow citizens. Please pass the Face Mask Mandate, thank you.
Kansas implemented the mask mandate where counties could decide on following the mandate. On average, the counties that required masks saw a 6% reduction in cases (calculated as a seven-day rolling average of new daily cases per capita). In contrast, the counties that opted out saw a 100% increase.
Name: Kotti Wickard
Address: 6811 EDINBOROUGH COURT
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: COVID Mask Mandate

Comment:
It is my opinion that there are many controversies around the wearing of masks. I have a friend who has recovered from COVID but is required to wear a mask for their job. Recently they were diagnosed with pneumonia and are convinced it was contracted from breathing the same air in and out into the mask. I believe that most adults are responsible and do not need an ordinance to provide how to behave. Little by little our civil liberties are being slowly taken away. This is just one example of this. I think the 6 members of the council that are for the mandate have the right to wear their masks but the other 5 shouldn’t have to wear one and neither should I if I choose not to.
Name: Dede Farrar
Address: 23144 Edelweiss Mountain Rd
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance
Comment:
Vote NO on mask mandate. This mandate is unnecessary. Most people wear a mask when asked to by business owners. We don't need false protection by the city council. Real police work is the best protection the city can offer its citizens. No micromanagement. NO to mandate. Active cases in Pennington County are decreasing.
Name: Amanda Fischer
Address: 2900 Orchard Ln #108 Rapid City SD 57703
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item:
Comment:

I would very much urge our city council to do the right thing and vote for a mask mandate. We do not as citizens have the rights to make decisions about other people’s health. There is too much evidence and science suggesting a simple mask protects people, period. Wearing a mask is the least we can do.
Comment:

Please vote no on the Mask Mandate Ordinance. Forcing me and my family to wear masks forces me to respond in one of three ways: 1) Submit and wear the mask; 2) Break the law; or 3) Avoid 1 and 2 and not engage in the local economy. I will not bend the knee and submit to fear, shaming and hysteria. I am a law-abiding citizen. So the only answer is option 3.

We escaped the political madness of Minnesota and moved here last year. During the pandemic we prioritized supporting local businesses, grateful that we now live in a state and city not shut down. We go out for dinner 1 to 2 times per week. We planned on staying at Alex Johnson for a night and Christmas shopping downtown. If you vote yes there will be none of that. Sadly, there needs to be consequences to your decisions.

A vote for this mask mandate is not the enforcement of sound health policy. It is an official endorsement of fear, hysteria and the fact that shaming works.
Name: Erik Whittenberg
Address: 1013 Wood Ave.
Rapid City, SD
57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance
Comment:
I will not wear a mask. Nobody's fear should impact the lives of others.
Name: Beth Stump
Address: 879 E. Minnesota St. Bldg C
Rapid City, SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:
My husband and I both have had covid-19. He was treated at home and I was admitted to the hospital twice. We have no idea how we got it as we wore masks while in public all the time. Believe me you don't want to catch it. We feel that we need to have a mask mandate because it has been proven effective most times but everyone needs to wear a mask not just me. I am now having home health come into my home for me. It is helping but the progress is slow. I would not wish this on my worse enemy if I had one, but I love everyone. PLEASE WEAR MASKS EVERYONE!!!
Name: Sheila Hillberry

Address: 6055 Coady Court, Rapid City, SD 57703

Formerly 50 years in the city at 1309 38th Street and 1938 Fremont. Still own property on Nugget Gulch and Janet Street.

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask ordinance

Comment:

I am doing my part to support and protect our health care workers and students and staff of our school system by wearing a mask. Our fellow citizens working on the front lines are worth protecting! Anyone not wearing a mask represents a potential threat to all of us, especially these people. Those who apparently moved here thinking it was the Wild West and they didn't have to act responsibly toward other people need to think again.
Comment:

I believe we can distance ourselves without having to wear the muzzle oh I mean mask. You do know that virus are so small .4 microns, so most masks can't filter them out. If masks were so effective, why didn't they tell us to wear them during flu season.

I moved to SD to escape liberals telling me what to do. But, here we go again...
Name: Laura Larson
Address: 4031 Lilac Ln, Rapid city
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask ordinance

Comment:

Please please pass a mask ordinance, it is past the time to let people do the right thing, so many of them are not. I am one of those people that can’t afford to take time off work because I become sick much less the price tag of being in the hospital. I work in an environment where maybe one in 10 customers wear a mask yet they sit and gamble for hrs, there is no plexiglass between me and people across the counter who sneeze and burp on me yet I go to work every day. Please help me and people like me, all we are trying to do is make a living. Please please please pass an enforceable mask ordinance, our lives are in your hands.

Thank you mayor and all the city council members who voted to pass the ordinance you are true profiles in courage. This is not about freedom this is not about ideology this is reality and we the citizens of this town need help. Please help us stay healthy and employed.

Laura Larson
I beg of our city elects, don't try to force more unconstitutional requirements in our city. Having kids away from their teachers and friends is bad enough. This will indeed change nothing as the same people that will not wear masks now, won't because of a unreasonable rule added. Stop testing, and the lying numbers will decline. Keep this state free.
Name: Dallas Bryant
Address: 3930 hall st
Rc,s57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Face covering

Comment:
I will not wear a mask, now or ever to conform to a harmless virus. If you want smaller numbers of people in the hospitals, stop testing them and fear mongering and for heavens sake, let these kids get back to school
Name: Anne cole
Address: 514 Americas way #6259 Box Elder South Dakota 57719
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mandatory masks
Comment:
Rapid city is seeing an increase just like everyone else. You are doing a tremendous amount of testing which means more positives will be found. The city has survived just fine up to this time. Please listen to our governor. Masks aren’t going to prevent anything. Staying away from people and washing washing your hands will do so much more than any mismanaged mask wearing would. Please vote NO.
Name: Jeffrey Bloom
Address: 600 Lindbergh Ave #61
Rapid City SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: COVID 19 Ordinance
Comment:

I write this comment to voice my strong opposition to a public mask mandate. Cloth masks do nothing to stop the spread of COVID 19, there are no randomized studies that indicate that they work. The virus spreads in places that have mask mandates. Looking at the amount number of cases at a given point in time does not give a proper context of all data.

Mandates of this type violate the cultural norms of this area. Any politician who votes to impose this on the people of this city should expect vigorous opposition in the next election.
I strongly disagree with the Rapid City mask mandate. While there may be anecdotal evidence that masks reduce viral loading to those who wear one, the evidence does not justify a mandate. Look at the data in other states. Whether observing the COVID-positive data in SD where masks have been recommended versus other states with draconian mandates and lockdowns, how can one discern that masks have any impact at all? In addition, there is plenty of visual evidence here in Rapid City that as we are facing a second wave of the virus, more and more people are wearing masks in places like grocery stores and pharmacies. We in Rapid City pay attention to the data provided and respond accordingly. Without mandates.

While I support our government officials at any level to recommend wearing masks, a mandate is a step too far.
Name: Tom Whillock
Address: 3321 Hall Street
RC, SD
57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
Please approve the mask mandate. It's past time. Listen to science. Thank you.
Name: Sharon Neva
Address: 840 N Spruce #243 Rapid City
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: Masks
Comment:

The sciences, the Heath experts all agree that we should wear masks to stop the spread of COVID. How hard is it to wear a mask? People against wearing a mask shout it should be a choice. However, we require people to wear a seat belt, not smoke in a public place, not to drive while texting, 21 to buy alcohol. We have mandates all around us— and they want to take a stand against wearing a mask.
Comment: Do not pass the mask mandate!

It does not protect against any viruses. The mask manufacturers themselves have disclaimers on many of the brands being sold stating just that.

the reason your glasses fog up is because the air you breath out is blasting thru the holes it doesn’t cover by your nose which is not being “filtered” whatsoever. If you want a true virus mask you have to have at least a n95 mask that is custom professionally fit to be effective.

The only real study done on masks is from Denmark https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-6817

It finds no discernible difference masked or unmasked in fact it found there may be detrimental effects to wearing the mask

This has nothing to do with public health it’s all about government experimentation with submission of their subjects and the leaders of Rapid City have fallen into this trap
Name: Trent Mattoon
Address: 25688 S Fairburn rd
Fairburn, Sd 57738
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type:
Agenda Item: Mask mandate
Comment:
There is no way you should require the mask mandate for everyone. You are infringing on our rights as American citizens. You need to read the constitution of the untied states. Let the people decide what is right for them!
Name: Sandra McFarland
Address: 1125 Settlers Creek Place
Rapid City, SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mandatory Masks

Comment:
I support a mandatory mask ordinance until we get widespread distribution of a vaccine. We need to curb the spread and to prevent as many deaths as possible. Mask wearing will help achieve this goal.
Name: Kate Brengle
Address: 4761 Hamlin ct
Rapid city SD 57703
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask mandate for 2nd reading
Comment:
I live right on the border of city limits. I work in a Lab in Rapid City that requires masks. I wear a mask at work. I had several co-workers who do the same and they got Covid, as did I. While I had it, my son and husband were in the same House as me, in close contact, without masks and they did NOT get the virus. Interesting that the people I know that have gotten the virus are mask wearers. This mandate is only going to cause an increase in unneeded hostility amongst neighbors and fellow Rapid City citizens. Please don’t let the government overstep their Boundaries. All for the common good is a scary statement to stand by, as it parallels history in Germany.