

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
Rapid City, South Dakota  
May 10, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rapid City was held at City Hall at 300 Sixth Street in Rapid City, South Dakota on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Steve Allender and the following Alderpersons: Laura Armstrong, Ritchie Nordstrom, John Roberts, Greg Strommen, Jason Salamun, Lance Lehmann, Bill Evans, Darla Drew, Ron Weifenbach and Pat Jones the following Alderpersons arrived during the course of the meeting: NONE; and the following were absent: NONE.

Staff members present included: Finance Director Pauline Sumption, Police Chief Don Hedrick, City Attorney Joel Landeen, Public Works Director Dale Tech, Human Resources Director Nick Stroot, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Community Development Interim Director Vicki Fisher, Civic Center Executive Director, Craig Baltzer, Library Director Terri Davis, IT Director Jim Gilbert, Airport Executive Director Patrick Dame, Fire Chief Jason Culberson, Deputy Finance Director Tracy Davis, Communication Coordinator Darrell Shoemaker, and Administrative Coordinator Heidi Weaver.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion was made by Armstrong, second by Jones and carried to adopt the agenda.

**NON-CONSENT ITEMS** – Item 1

Mayor Allender called the special council meeting to order. He indicated there would be presentations given by the City Department Directors for Surplus Funding Priorities. He also stated there would be no formal action on any requests at this meeting.

Pauline Sumption, Finance Director, gave her presentation on behalf of the Finance Office. She requested \$2 million that would be used for the Opportunity Capture Fund. The City and Elevate use these funds as an economic development tool to encourage new and expanding business to Rapid City, specifically those with higher wages/benefits. The program began in 2006 with an initial allocation of \$1 million from the Vision Fund. Additional allocation amounts varied from \$300,000/year to \$1.2 million/year along with another reimbursement of \$2 million from TID 64. The City has given grants to over 40 organizations, including Cabela's to expand to Rapid City and BH Economic Development for the business incubator buildout on the School of Mines campus. Currently, the Fund has a balance of \$358,137. Elevate has had over 50 business inquiries in the past year due to the State's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional funding would be used as an incentive to bring some of these businesses to Rapid City. Weifenbach indicated he would send Sumption an email to clarify other questions.

Terri Davis, Library Director, gave her presentation on behalf of the Library. She requested up to \$300,000 for a Bookmobile. The library has determined this is the most economical way to serve everyone. The bookmobile would serve a larger area of Rapid City because the books would come to the residents.

Lieutenant Cathy Bock spoke on behalf of the Police Department. They have been working on a radio project for several years in order to be compliant with the State Radio system. They are asking for \$500,000 to purchase the radios. Roberts said it was a perfect opportunity to fund this. Chief Culberson said their request is the same because they are on the same system.

Chief Hedrick also spoke on acquiring property to be used as the "Southwest Precinct". It would cost approximately \$1.8 million. Salamun strongly supports investing in the police department and first responders. He is in favor of the project. Dale Tech spoke on the property. The police department is not asking for more people, just more space.

Chief Jason Culberson spoke to the council. The Fire Department is requesting the following: (1.) Fire Station 1 Remodel/Expansion (\$10 million): Station 1 includes a working station and the department's administrative staff. (2.) Fire Training Facility (\$2 million): Infrastructure and construction of the fire training tower which includes a burn building on our training property on Creek Drive. (3) Public Safety Radios (\$565,000): Due to federally-required upgrades, the Statewide digital radio system is updating, which requires fire department to purchase new radios for personnel and apparatus to conform to the new requirements. Chief Culberson stated Station 1 is deteriorating. It is inefficient, has sewer backups and overcrowding. Salamun, Nordstrom, Drew, Weifenbach and Armstrong spoke in favor of remodel to Fire Station 1. The council also addressed the training facility and upgrading the radios. They are in favor of those needs as well.

Nick Stroot, Human Resources Director, spoke for the Human Resources Department. Stroot presented a COVID-19 bonus payment to City employees (\$619,000): A one-time bonus payment for all full-time and benefitted part-time employees who were employed in 2020 and still employed by the City as a show of appreciation for the hard work and resilience during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bonuses would be for \$1,000 for public safety (Police & Fire) employees and \$500 for all other employees. Chief Hedrick and Chief Culberson support this proposal as many first responders put their own lives in danger to help others. They complimented all employees for the efforts during the pandemic.

Jim Gilbert, IT Director spoke on a proposal from IT. The city needs to move to a centralized purchasing of computers to ensure that the machines used on a daily basis to serve the citizens are up to date and on supported operating systems. The IT department has devised a way to ensure that each department can provide a yearly budgeted amount to IT to ensure that computers are replaced at a fixed interval. This will allow departments to have the computer replacement portion of the budget fixed to allow for easier budgeting processes. The fund will need some seed money due to the large number of computers that need to be replaced this year. This will also allow the program to start this year as opposed to waiting until next year's budget. \$400,000 is needed to fully fund the first year of the program, however \$200,000 would allow City to replace the most critical computers. Comments came from Nordstrom, Armstrong, Evans and Drew.

Craig Baltzer, Executive Director, of the Monument, presented his proposal for the following items: (1.) Upgrade Score Board/video board/additional Ribbon Board (\$1,056,260): The construction budget for the Summit Arena allows for two end hung score/video boards and ribbon board along the straight-a-ways of the Arena. The upgrade would change it to a Center Hung Scoreboard/video board and connect the ribbon board along the western curve of the arena. (2.) Adams Street Property/Building Demolition (\$250,000): The City purchased the Adams Street property several years ago and The Monument has been watching over it. The value of the purchase was in the property, and not the building on the property. The building was dilapidated and un-useable at the time and the intention was to eventually demolish the building. The building has deteriorated further and needs to be demolished due to safety issues. Demolition costs includes asbestos abatement. (3.) Adams Street Machine Shop/Parking Lot (\$1.75 million): The property can best be used in two ways. On the far north end, the plan is to have a machine shop to store and house The Monument's large equipment for protection from

weather elements and to free up more space in The Monument's immediate lots. On the southern three-quarters of the property, The Monument would like to see this area used as parking lots for events. The \$1.75 million cost is for both the machine shop and parking lots.

Dale Tech, Director of Public Works, addressed the council. He presented two proposals. (1.) Jackson Springs Water Treatment Membrane Module Replacement (\$1,496,833): In 2021, the City replaced four of the five membranes at a cost of \$1,496,833. One-time funding can be used to offset future membrane replacement costs and will help provide stability for water rates. (2.) Infrastructure Expansion for Future Development Seed Money (\$4 million): An initial investment of \$4 million can be used for the proactive expansion of existing infrastructure to encourage targeted development. Infrastructure corridors are being analyzed as part of the City's Utility System Master Plan and the creation of an Infrastructure Development Plan, which is anticipated to be completed in the last half of 2021. Weifenbach, Nordstrom and Strommen all spoke positively regarding these projects.

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION / DIRECTION**

Mayor Allender said he would be meeting with council leadership to discuss everything. They will go over options to move forward. Evans referenced resolution 2020-084, and said that council should make this a priority. Mayor Allender said they were working on this. They should have a presentation by the end of June. Armstrong said the council needs to be active in talking with constituents because they need to make fiscally responsible decisions.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, motion to adjourn was made by Strommen, second by Drew and carried 9-1 with Weifenbach voting no. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m..

Dated this 10th day of May, 2021.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

s/Steve Allender  
Mayor

ATTEST:

s/Pauline Sumption  
Finance Director  
(SEAL)