

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Rapid City, South Dakota
May 20, 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 Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Steve Allender and the following Alderpersons: Laura Armstrong, Ritchie Nordstrom, Greg Strommen, Jason Salamun, Lance Lehmann, Bill Evans, Darla Drew, Ron Weifenbach, John Roberts 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, City Attorney Joel Landeen, Police Department Captain James Johns, Deputy Finance Director Tracy Davis, Communication Coordinator Darrell Shoemaker, and Administrative Coordinator Heidi Weaver.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor read in item (CC052021-01) – Presentation by the Home Rule Charter Committee. He indicated that there will be No Action taken at this special council meeting. The members of the committee included Alan Dietrich, Carman Timmerman, EdD, RN (ret.), Chris Orr, Dave Kelley, Don Frankenfeld, Dr. Ed McLaughlin, Dr. Jared McEntaffer, Evan Thomas PhD., Jason Green, Kathleen Burr, Linda Lea Viken, Lynn Kendall, Michael Nelson, Mike Hickey, Patrick Wyss, Rich Kahler, MS, CFP, CFT-1, Tamara Pier; and the facilitators were Dr. Helen Usera and Leah Braun.

The presentation consisted of the introduction of the charter committee; the purpose of the committee; the process; Dillon's Rule; activities controlled by the State Legislature; limitations on Home Rule; other considerations, current form of municipal government; manager form of municipal government and more information. Roberts left the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and returned at 6:22 p.m.

The committee members spoke on information regarding the Home Rule Charter. The articles consisted of the Powers of the City; City Council; City Manager; Departments, Offices and Agencies; Financial Management; Elections; General Provisions; Charter Amendment; and Transition and Severability.

The City Manager shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the city, responsible to the council for the management of all city affairs placed in the manager's charge by or under this charter or city ordinance. The City Attorney shall serve of the appointed by the city council. The city attorney may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members elect. The City Finance Director shall serve as the chief financial advisor to the council, the manager and all city departments, offices and agencies. Lehmann left the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and returned at 7:03 p.m.

The council members voiced their opinion on adopting a home rule charter. Jones, Salamun, Evans, Nordstrom, Weifenbach, Roberts spoke against it. Strommen, Armstrong and Drew made some arguments in favor of adoption. Lehmann did not voice an opinion. The overall question from the council was, how does adoption the home rule charter benefit Rapid City?

They also asked what is broken that needs to be fixed. Salamun and Armstrong left the meeting at 7:52 and returned at 7:55. Several audience members spoke against the home rule charter. Some thought the committee was now operating illegally since the contract date expired. The council was asked to step back and identify the problem that they want to solve by changing to home rule. It was explained to the audience that the home rule charter was just a base to start with and it can be changed. There was a general consensus that there would have to be a lot more discussion and public meetings held regarding home rule and its benefits. The committee members agreed to answer any future questions and/or attend future meetings if asked.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, motion to adjourn was made by Armstrong, second by Strommen and carried 10-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Dated this 20th day of May, 2021.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

s/Steve Allender
Mayor

ATTEST:

s/Pauline Sumption
Finance Director
(SEAL)

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