PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Rapid City, South Dakota
August 17, 2022

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, 300 Sixth Street, in Rapid City, South Dakota on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Steve Allender and the following Alderpersons: Greg Strommen, Lance Lehmann, Pat Roseland, Pat Jones, Jesse Ham and Bill Evans; the following Alderpersons arrived during the course of the meeting: None; the following attended telephonically: Ritchie Nordstrom and Laura Armstrong; and the following were absent: Jason Salamun and John Roberts.

Staff members present included: Finance Director Pauline Sumption, Deputy Finance Director Tracy Davis, City Attorney Joel Landeen, Public Works Director Dale Tech, IT Director Jim Gilbert, Communications Coordinator Darrell Shoemaker and Administrative Coordinator Heidi Weaver.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
Council President Lehmann called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Motion was made by Strommen, second by Evans and carried to adopt the agenda. Motion carried 8-0.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
No speaker request forms received.

NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS - Items 1-4

President Lehmann read in item (CC081722-01) – City Council Discussion of the Mayor’s 2023 Budget. Armstrong asked for clarification on FTE’s. Lehmann asked to come back to that question. Jones said a majority of the city’s revenue comes from sales tax revenue. He added that it is very important to acknowledge locals and tourists that come to Rapid City and spend money here. Jones supports the new FTE’s for the grant writing program. He said those salaries will pay for themselves. We are missing out on opportunities to get money for our programs. Mayor went over the additional FTE’s. He said the mayor’s office will hire another communications coordinator to help Darrell Shoemaker. He said there would be a mayor’s Chief of Staff. Public Works has requested two project engineers. A .75 employee for a right-of-way specialist, one GIS analyst, two traffic signal technicians, three street maintenance operators and three equipment mechanics. PD is requesting six new police officers. Parks is requesting three new park maintenance workers and one project manager. Finance is requesting a Chief Accountant. IT is requesting one new IT analyst and one new IT technician. Grant writing will go under Finance, with three FTE’s and management duties will come from existing management in Finance. Strommen asked Sumption if she needed additional staffing to implement best practices. She indicated if she filled a PT accounts receivable employee and a PT accounts payable employee, that duties could be shifted to work. In additional to cross-training, that would help with work loads as well. Strommen asked about the substantial increase in cost for the care campus. Mayor Allender explained the agreement with Pennington County is that after all of the fees are recovered from insurance companies and people who pay for services there and any grants from the state or federal government, then the city and county split the remaining balance. The increase is based on many factors including what payment the care campus gets, along with the homeless population, growth, even the weather could affect some of the use of that building. The approximate increase in spending for next year will be $215,000.00. In response to a question from Jones, Mayor Allender said the Chief of Staff position would be discussed with council before implementing. Jones asked how much of the budget would be designated to homelessness. Mayor Allender said he would need to work on those numbers for the next budget meeting. Evans supported the Chief of Staff position. He also stated the mayor
deserves a raise. He suggested hiring a Sustainability Manager and expressed that the Arts needs more funding. He said their fund has been flatlined and he thinks they deserve an increase. Strommen supported the Chief of Staff position. He said the job has gotten very big. He also supports an increase in the mayor’s salary as well. He said the amount of responsibility on the mayor justifies a substantial increase in salary. He is in favor of more police officers, firefighters, medics, etc. and to pay them more. There are currently 21 positions vacant for police officers with 6 additional being approved. They are all critical positions and their salaries should reflect that. Sumption said the Chief of Staff position could be added to the wage study if desired. She explained the most recent salary adjustments for the police department were negotiated through the union. Landeen stated the mayor’s salary has not been increased over the past ten years. He said it would be depoliticized a bit if the council adjusts it. Jones clarified that we are currently short 21 officers for 2022 and 6 more are needed for 2023. Mayor Allender said there was a workload assessment done last year and we need to be in line with the national average. The study showed each officer had double the workload. Even though we are down 21 officers, we want to secure those positions so we don’t overspend the resources we need to employ them. Strommen said the mayor did not include a salary increase for his position in the budget. He would like him to adjust the mayor’s budget to include a raise for him. Strommen thinks the fees for consultants are too high and we should think about having our own expert(s) onsite instead of spending this much extra money. Tech said all communities deal with the same struggles when it comes to managing projects. Consultants make sure contractors are doing their projects properly. Tech said the city only has two traffic signal technicians and that’s what they’ve had for the last 30 years. There have been so many projects added that they can’t keep up. Mayor Allender confirmed that the grant writer and other positions will start in January 2023. The job descriptions, union/non-union and pay scales will be determined between now and January 2023. Armstrong asked if the council in interested in pursuing the Sustainability Coordinator position. Lehmann said the council would be interested in what that job entails and a future job description would be needed. Mayor stated he had a future meeting with the sustainability committee to discuss the coordinator position. He thinks they will have some examples of other cities that use this. No objection to looking into it. Evans thinks the arts contingency fund should be increased. He suggested $25K-$40K additional funding to make up for the lack of funding over the last decade.

Lehmann read in item (CC081722-02) Approve Resolution 2022-074 of Intent to take the statutory authorized increase in property tax revenue as part of the annual appropriation ordinance for the 2023 fiscal year. Motion was made by Evans, second by Jones to approve. Motion carried 8-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-074
RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO TAKE THE STATUTORILY AUTHORIZED INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUE AS PART OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR 2023

WHEREAS, SDCL 10-13-35 limits cities ability to increase the revenue collected from property taxes in their annual budgets; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the City of Rapid City may only increase the revenue collected from property taxes by the amount of growth and by the amount of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3% whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, the City may choose to take all of the statutorily authorized increase in property taxes, may choose to take part of the increase, or may choose to forego any increase in property taxes as part of its annual appropriation ordinance; and
WHEREAS, the City adopted Resolution No. 2012-004 which requires the City Council to approve a resolution that informs the community that the City intends to take the statutorily authorized increase in property taxes as part of the City’s annual appropriation ordinance prior to second reading of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City is allowed by state law to take a 3.0% increase in property taxes for 2023 which equals approximately $629,589 in additional property tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the proposed City budget for 2023 includes the statutorily authorized increase in property taxes to account for inflation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Rapid City intends to take the statutorily authorized increase in property taxes of 3.0% for 2023 as part of the annual appropriation ordinance.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2022.

CITY OF RAPID CITY
s/ Steve Allender
Mayor

ATTEST:
s/ Pauline Sumption
Finance Director
(SEAL)

Lehmann read in item (CC081722-03) First Reading, Ordinance 6550, regarding FY2023 Appropriation Ordinance. Sumption said council had second reading to make the adjustments that they want before it’s final. Motion was made by Armstrong, second by Evans to approve. Motion carried 8-0 that Ordinance 6550 be placed upon its first reading and title was fully and distinctly read and the second reading set for September 6, 2022.

Lehmann asked for suggestions on future budget meeting dates. Motion was made by Armstrong, second by Jones to schedule the next budget hearing for Wednesday, August 31 at 5:30 p.m. Discussion continued. Substitute motion made by Armstrong, second by Jones to schedule the next budget hearing for Monday, August 29 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried 8-0.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, motion was made by Evans, second by Jones and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2022.

CITY OF RAPID CITY
s/ Steve Allender
Mayor

ATTEST:
s/ Pauline Sumption
Finance Director
(SEAL)

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