

**RESOLUTION**

131

11-6-06

*Council Rules  
& Procedures*

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council conducts its business in open meetings; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Rapid City Common Council frequently make requests for information from the Council's leadership, the Mayor's Office and the City's staff; and

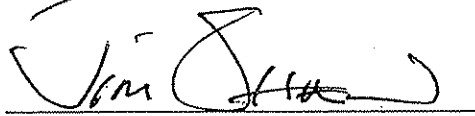
WHEREAS, public statements have recently been made by members of the Council to the effect that information regarding travel and other related items have not been made available and that business is being conducted in secret.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Rapid City Common Council that all information sought by members of the Council has been provided as requested.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Rapid City Common Council that the statements that have been made to the effect that information has been withheld or that business has been conducted in secret are considered false by the Common Council.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2006.

CITY OF RAPID CITY



Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Finance Officer

(SEAL)

currently funding the 2007 budget with ten percent of the Undesignated Cash. He also indicated that when staff is able to determine the balance at the end of 2006, that allocation could be reinstated in the 2006 contingency, if it has sufficient funds. Substitute motion carried.

Okrepkie moved, second by LaCroix to request staff to draft an amendment to the travel regulations stating that single occupancy of rooms will be reserved unless some other arrangement is requested by travelers. Responding to a question from Alderman Kooiker, Alderman Chapman indicated that the intent of the motion is to apply the policy to employees, as well as elected officials. Alderman Kooiker indicated that he believed the Police and Fire Departments have a policy on sharing rooms when traveling on behalf of the City; and suggested there needs to be consistency. Fire Chief Shepherd and Police Chief Tieszen each indicated that it is not standard policy to require employees to share rooms. A request to employees to share lodging depends on the circumstance of the travel; however, whenever possible, sharing rooms is encouraged. Travel Requests are reviewed on a case by case basis. Alderman Olson indicated that the policy as proposed allows anyone to make arrangements for single rooms when it is appropriate. Alderman Schumacher noted the appropriation to the travel line item for Council and Mayor approved earlier in the year, and suggested budgetary constraints should be an incentive to share rooms. Alderman Chapman indicated he has reviewed the City's travel policy and compared it with other entities and finds that the policy adequately addresses travel regulations. He believed it was appropriate to have single occupancy rooms. Alderman Hadcock did not believe the citizens felt it was unreasonable for a Council member to have their own room while traveling on City business. Alderman Hurlbut indicated that a little discretion will go a long way. Johnson moved to call the question. Second by Hadcock. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted AYE: Kroeger, Johnson, LaCroix, Okrepkie, Hurlbut, Hadcock, and Olson; NO: Kooiker, Chapman, and Schumacher. Motion carried. Upon a roll call vote on the motion to approve, the following voted AYE: Chapman, Johnson, LaCroix, Okrepkie, Hurlbut, Hadcock, Olson, and Kroeger; NO: Kooiker and Schumacher. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson brought forward the following resolution for discussion. He reminded the members of the long discussions about travel, and accusations made by Council members about Council leadership, the Mayor and staff not being forthcoming with information. He pointed out that the accusations are false. At this time, Alderman Johnson read the Resolution into the minutes; and moved adoption of the Resolution.

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NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Rapid City Common Council that all information sought by members of the Council has been provided as requested.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Rapid City Common Council that the statements that have been made to the effect that information has been withheld or that business has been conducted in secret are considered false by the Common Council.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2006.

ATTEST:  
s/ James F. Preston  
Finance Officer

CITY OF RAPID CITY  
s/ Jim Shaw, Mayor

(SEAL)

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was second by Chapman. Alderman Kooiker pointed out that the Resolution was not readily available to all Council members; and if the Resolution is passed, it is putting a lie into the public record. Kooiker noted that on July 5, 2006 Alderman Johnson led the defeat of a motion to obtain travel information; and this led to the concerns raised by himself and Alderman Schumacher and an interview with a local newspaper. He indicated that the Mayor and Council leadership knew that he and Alderman Schumacher had gone to the media complaining about being denied the information. Alderman Schumacher noted that the information was eventually provided.

Substitute motion was made by Schumacher, second by Kooiker to accept the first four statements of the Resolution. Alderman Hurlbut indicated that when requested, information has always been provided to the Council. Alderman Okrepkie spoke in opposition to the substitute motion; and indicated that when he needed and requested information it was provided. He indicated that he is conscious of open government and promotes open government. Upon a roll call vote on the substitute motion, the following voted AYE: Schumacher and Kooiker; NO: Chapman, Johnson, LaCroix, Okrepkie, Hurlbut, Hadcock, Olson, and Kroeger. Motion failed.

Mayor Shaw clarified that he did not have anything to do with the Resolution. The Resolution was brought forward by a Council member. He indicated the City, the Mayor's Office, the City Council, the staff make every effort to provide any information any person wishes. He pointed out that the City's business is conducted before the public. He noted the Council passed a Resolution saying that if a request for information was going to take more than a certain amount of staff time, the request needed to come before the Council leadership and Mayor. In response to a question from Alderman Kooiker, City Attorney Green indicated he typed the Resolution on behalf of Alderman Johnson, but did not draft the Resolution. Okrepkie moved to call the question. There being no second, the Chair declared the motion died for lack of a second. Alderman Johnson indicated that it reasonable to say the Council is tired of the accusations that meetings are conducted in secret, and information is not being provided. Alderman Hurlbut moved to call the question. Second by Hadcock. Motion carried.

Upon a roll call vote on the motion to approve, the following voted AYE: Johnson, LaCroix, Okrepkie, Hurlbut, Hadcock, Olson, Kroeger, and Chapman; NO: Schumacher and Kooiker. Motion carried.