

# **Rapid City Municipal Terms**

## **Change Report**

**Rapid City Chamber of Commerce**

**Board Meeting December 11, 2008**

*Jeffrey D. Partridge*

# History

- 3/18/1910 – Commission form of government.
- 8/7/1928 – election to change form of government – failed
- 1/14/1941 - election to change form of government – failed
- 1/4/1944 - election to change form of government – failed

## History Cont'd

- 4/25/1949 - election to change form of government – failed
- 11/27/1956 - election to change form of government to aldermanic – passed\*
- 4/16/1957 – election of alderman 1 year and 2 year terms
- 4/15/1958 – election of alderman 2 year terms

\*Per Jack Cannon – Personality was the problem

## History Cont'd

- 02/07/1961 – special election to change form of government to alderman/city manager – failed
- 02/19/1963 - special election to change form of government to alderman/city manager – failed

Source:

City Attorney's office of Records: Jason Green / Amy Graves

# Other Cities in South Dakota

- Aberdeen: 5 year terms
- Rapid City: 2 year terms
- Pierre: 3 year terms
- Yankton: 3 year terms
- Mitchell: 3 year terms
- Brookings: 3 year terms
- Madison: 3 year terms

## **Other Cities in South Dakota (Cont'd)**

- Watertown: 4 year terms
- Sioux Falls: 4 year terms
- Brandon: 4 year terms
- Vermillion: 4 year terms

Source: SD Municipal League

# Mayoral Terms

CARLYLE

Munson

Hanks

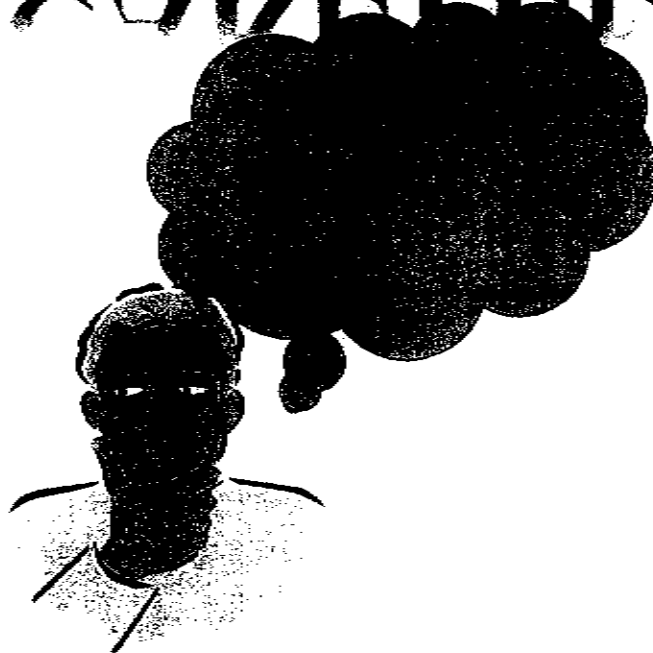
Shaw

MCLAUGHLIN

LACROIX

# Mayoral Terms

CARLYLE  
CARLYLE



Hanks LACROIX

Munson  
Shaw

VICTORIAN



**Advantage / Disadvantage**

**Continuity / Continuity**

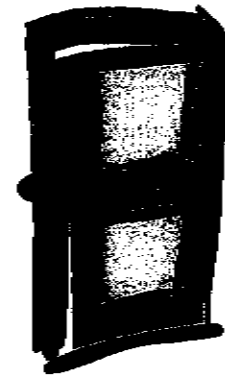
**Advantage / Disadvantage**

**Continuity / Continuity**

**Staff Manager / Mismanage**

# Mayoral Terms

## Is there a Back Door?



Council Resolution for Professional Development

By petition of the public, they can essentially call an election mid-term. They have to state a reason - misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, crimes in office, gross drunkenness, etc...City officials are the only ones that can be recalled.

**Advantage / Disadvantage**

**Continuity / Continuity**

**Staff Manager / Mismanage**

**Tough Decisions**

**Leadership Development**

**Vision Realization**

# **Council Terms – 3 Years Advantage / Disadvantage**

**Learn the Budget**

**Process Development**

**Council Meetings**

**Teamwork with Staff**

# Year by Year Analysis

Election Cycle Analysis

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Mayor			Mayor			Mayor		
Council 1			Council 1			Council 1		
	Council 2			Council 2			Council 2	

Election Cycle Analysis

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
			Mayor			Mayor		
Council 1			Council 1			Council 1		
	Council 2			Council 2			Council 2	

## **Cost Savings?**

- Years with no election =  
Cost Savings for Rapid City
- Political Campaign for Mayor could be more expensive
- Political Campaign for Council could be more expensive
- Serious Candidates

# Resources Needed

- City Attorney
- Current Mayor & Council
- Staff
- Media
- Public



**Thank You**

## Next Steps

- Date of next update
- Goals for next review
  - Specific items that will be done
  - Issues that will be resolved
- Make sure anyone involved understands action plan
- Council can take action w/  
Resolution

**Proposed Year by Year: 4-Year Mayoral and 3-Year Council Terms  
with Initiated Measure in 2009 to change terms at the following election**

Election Cycle Years								
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Mayor		Mayor				Mayor		
Council 1		Council 1			Council 1			Council 1
Initiated Measure	Council 2			Council 2			Council 2	
Election Cycle Years								
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Mayor				Mayor			
	Council 1			Council 1				Council 1
	Council 2			Council 2			Council 2	
Election Cycle Years								
2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Mayor		Mayor				Mayor		Mayor
		Council 1			Council 1			Council 1
	Council 2			Council 2			Council 2	

September 2, 2009

Mayor Alan Hanks  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor Hanks:

The purpose of this letter is to convey the recommendation of the Chamber that the term of Office of Mayor be lengthened to four years and the term of Office of Council Members be lengthened to three years.

During the early part of this year, our Governmental Affairs Committee and our Board of Directors discussed the benefits of these longer terms of office. On January 20<sup>th</sup> we presented our intent to make such a recommendation to the Council. Following that presentation, we hosted a March 14<sup>th</sup> public forum. The cumulative effect of our discussions and the public forum convinced us that longer terms of office will better serve Rapid City's citizens, our Mayor and Council Members.

As an organization, we strongly believe the lengthened terms of office will contribute to the best interest of better government. This will afford office holders opportunities to more methodically and programmatically analyze their decisions and the direction of government operations without the challenges of campaigning every two years.

The method by which we believe the changes should occur are outlined below:

- The passage of an ordinance establishing three year terms of Office of Aldermen effective with candidates elected in 2010 and 2011
- A four year term of Office of Mayor effective with the candidate elected in 2011.

As our city has grown and the complexities of governing have become ever more challenging, we believe that lengthening the terms of office will provide our city's elected officials with a better foundation on which to govern.

Sincerely,

Randy Hamburg, Chairman  
Board of Directors

# Proposed Year by Year 4 Year Mayor and 3 Year Council

Election Cycle Analysis												
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Mayor		Mayor				Mayor				Mayor		
Council 1		Council 1			Council 1			Council 1			Council 1	
	Council 2		Council 2			Council 2			Council 2			Council 2
2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
	Mayor				Mayor					Mayor		
	Council 1			Council 1			Council 1			Council 1		
		Council 2			Council 2			Council 2			Council 2	

