

ORDINANCE NO. 5733

**AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE RAPID CITY COMMON COUNCIL TO  
REVIEW E-MAIL MESSAGES DURING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS BY  
AMENDING SECTION 2.04.120(B) OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.**

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has adopted an ordinance that prohibits the use of electronic communication mediums during public meetings; and

WHEREAS, under the adopted ordinance electronic communication mediums include e-mail; and

WHEREAS, members of the Rapid City Common Council frequently receive communications on a variety of topics from members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes it would be in its best interest to be able to review e-mail messages while a City Council meeting is in progress; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council recognizes the problem of communicating through an electronic medium during a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes it is possible to balance the competing interests between public access to a public meeting and access to communications from constituents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 2.04.120(B) is hereby amended as follows:

B. The use of any electronic communication medium by the members of any city board commission or the Common Council during any meeting that is required to be open to the public by South Dakota law is prohibited. Notwithstanding this provision, members of the Common Council may review e-mail messages that have been received prior to a Common Council meeting but may not engage in any communication activity using e-mail during a meeting.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Officer

(SEAL)

First Reading:  
Second Reading:  
Published:  
Effective: