



CITY OF RAPID CITY
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Joel P. Landeen, City Attorney

DATE: 2/9/12

RE: Ordinance on Terms of Office for Alderman

At its meeting on February 6th, the City Council directed me to amend the proposed ordinance on the term length for alderman to three years. Included in the motion was language which was intended to make the terms of office for alderman and mayor staggered so that alderman and the mayor would not be up for election in the same year. This language indicated that the change in terms of office for alderman would not occur until the election in 2013. The Council also directed that I amend the proposed ordinance on the term of office for the mayor to a term of three years. The current Mayor and half of the City Council are up for election in June of 2013. If the City Council passed both ordinances as recommended, half the City Council would still be up for election at the same time as the Mayor. I spoke with the Mayor and the Council President after the City Council meeting and pointed this out. They asked me to bring forward the ordinance in a form which accomplished the goal of staggering the terms so that the mayor and alderman were not up for election at the same time. In order to accomplish this I have amended the ordinance on the term of office for alderman so that the three year term would not start until the municipal election in June of 2014. If both ordinances pass as amended, the mayoral elections would be in 2013, 2016 and 2019. The City Council elections would be in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020 etc.