

ORDINANCE NO. 5768

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE QUALIFICATIONS AND TERM OF OFFICE FOR ALDERMAN BY ADDING SECTION 2.08.005 TO THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, SDCL 9-8-4 provides for the term length of alderman under the aldermanic form of government; and

WHEREAS, the current term of office for alderman in Rapid City is two years, which is the minimum term allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 9-8-4 authorizes municipalities to establish by ordinance a term of office for alderman of up to five years; and

WHEREAS, any increase to the term of office would not change the current term of office for any alderman currently holding such office; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce made the initial request that an ordinance increasing the aldermen's term of office to four years be passed by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the recommendation of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce and public input received at open houses which were held to discuss extending term lengths; and

WHEREAS, the current terms of office for the mayor and alderman are such that half the City Council is up for election at the same time as the mayor is up for election; and

WHEREAS, state law prevents a person from running for both mayor and alderman; and

WHEREAS, the current length of term prevents half the City Council from running for mayor without giving up their seat on the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the terms of office for mayor and for alderman should be staggered so that the elections are on different years which would allow any member of the City Council to run for mayor without giving up their City Council seat; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the City to increase the term of office for alderman to three (3) years by adding Section 2.08.005 to the Rapid City Municipal Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Rapid City that Section 2.08.005 is hereby added to the Rapid City Municipal Code to read as follows:

2.08.005 Alderman – Qualifications and Term of Office.

Alderman shall be citizens of the United States and a registered voter and resident of the ward for which they will hold office. Each ward will have two (2) alderman whose terms shall

be staggered to provide that both alderman from a ward are not up for election in the same year. The term of office for alderman shall be three (3) years starting with the term of office for alderman elected in the municipal election held in June of 2014.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer
(SEAL)

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Published:
Effective: