

ORDINANCE NO. 6079

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, several years ago the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce recommended that the term lengths of the Mayor and City Council be increased; and

WHEREAS, after considering the Chamber's recommendation, the City held open houses to discuss extending the term lengths of the Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, based on the input received at the public hearings and the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce the City Council voted to increase the term lengths for the Mayor and Alderman; and

WHEREAS, the longer term lengths previously approved by the City Council were vetoed and never became effective; and

WHEREAS, with two year terms half of the City Council is running for election every year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that longer terms of office would provide more continuity and stability to City government and would be more conducive to successful completion of long term projects and planning; 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 2016.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer
(SEAL)

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Published:
Effective: