

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council recognizes the importance of providing the public with access to the minutes of its meetings; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law has required that the minutes of the meetings of municipal governing bodies be published in the official newspaper since at least 1919; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council recognizes that significant technological advances have been made since the requirement to publish minutes in newspapers was established, including the wide spread use and ownership of computers; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council recognizes that electronic publication of documents on the world wide web provides instant access to information with greater accessibility and wider distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council takes notice of the fact that the vast majority of newspaper publishers provide world wide web access to their content; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Municipal League has adopted a policy statement in support of allowing municipalities additional publication options; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City spends more than fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$58,000.00) annually and **commits countless hours of staff time** to publish the minutes of Common Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has the necessary infrastructure in place to publish its minutes electronically without significant additional cost as the formatting of the minutes is currently done by the Finance Office prior to delivery to the City's official newspaper; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council finds that the cost savings to the taxpayers coupled with the wider distribution and accessibility of electronically published minutes would provide much greater public access to the minutes of Council meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rapid City Common Council that the City of Rapid City supports amending state law to allow municipalities to comply with the requirement to publish its meeting minutes by doing so electronically on the world wide web; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Rapid City Common Council, that in the alternative, the Council supports amending state law to allow competitive bidding in cities or jurisdictions where there are two or more newspapers of significant circulation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Rapid City Common Council, that the South Dakota Municipal is encouraged to work with school districts, counties, the court system and other entities that publish minutes or notifications in newspapers to provide alternate avenues that many result in cost savings to the taxpayers.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2008.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

By: _____
Alan Hanks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer

(SEAL)