

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Rapid City, South Dakota
6:30 P.M., Monday, January 5, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rapid City was held at City Hall, 300 Sixth Street, Second Floor, in Rapid City, South Dakota on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Jason Salamun and the following Alderpersons: Kevin Maher, Callie Meyer, Bill Evans, Lance Lehmann, Stephen Tamang, Greg Strommen, John Roberts, Lindsey Seachris, Rod Pettigrew and Josh Biberdorf; the following were absent: None; the following joined the meeting by telephone: None; and the following Alderpersons arrived during the course of the meeting: None

Staff members present included: City Attorney Joel Landeen, Police Chief Don Hedrick, Fire Chief Jason Culberson, Community Planning Director Vicki Fisher, Finance Director Daniel Ainslie, Public Works Director Mike Theis, IT Director Jim Gilbert, Human Resources Director Amber Cornella, Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Chief of Staff Leah Braun, City Engineer Roger Hall, Assistant Public Works Director Stacey Titus, City Communication's Coordinator Darrell Shoemaker and Senior Administrative Coordinator Heidi Weaver.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Evans, second by Roberts to adopt the agenda. Mayor Salamun said the Football recognition would take place before the Volunteers of America Presentation. Motion carried 10-0.

HOLIDAY MUSIC

There was a performance by players from Rushmore Music Festival, Directed by Katie Smirnova.

PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION

Mayor Salamun recognized the Rapid City City Thomas More Cavaliers for winning the South Dakota High School Class 11B Football State Championship. Their head coach is Austin Hagen.

Amy Mikulak, Administrator, Housing Stability Partners of the Black Hills, with Volunteers of America gave the Point In Time (PIT) Count Presentation. This is a

federally mandated census conducted by the SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium (SDHHC), which serves as the state's "Continuum of Care". The count directly impacts the amount of federal funding the state receives for homeless services.

The count must represent all homeless person (sheltered and unsheltered) on a single night during the last ten days of January. HUD requires a count of sheltered persons every year.

While HUD only requires an unsheltered count every two years (in odd-numbered years), South Dakota typically conducts both annually to maintain better data for state planning. This year's count is scheduled for January 27, 2026. They

do need volunteers to help facilitate the count. www.housingstabilitypartnersbh.org is the website to go to for information.

She thanked the council for their support and encouraged citizens to support the toolkit, to call her office and inquire with any questions, and participate in a positive way.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mayor Salamun asked for nominations on the Election of Council Vice-President. Motion was made by Meyer, second by Maher to nominate Dr. Tamang for Vice-President. No other nominations were made.

Strommen asked that nominations cease. Mayor Salamun announced that Dr. Tamang was the new Council Vice-President.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Domico Rodriguez (RC Sports Commission) clarified that the proposed Libertyland project is a "destination district" rather than a traditional amusement park. The vision is a mixed-use development featuring

shops, dining, and open entertainment complex, which aims to boost year-round sports tourism. Proponents emphasized the need for infrastructure improvements to Tish Boulevard and shared parking to handle the influx of visitors. Daniel Mulally, said Rapid City is starting to look like Denver and he's against the TIF. William Waggoner spoke regarding SDCL 1-27-1 and wanting records and emails regarding the TIFs. Chet Ellsworth said the city took away the separation of powers from the citizens. He said the council voted out the citizen's committee for the Vision Funds. James Blalota spoke against the TIF and said Team Rapid City lied by saying there would be tax relief. He accused the RCPD of witness tampering and perjury. Eileen Desmond said there is no affordable housing in Rapid City. Rent has gone from \$800 to \$1200 per month. Minimum wage is \$11.85 and people can't afford housing on that wage. She wants the City to create a committee to investigate the landlords and their lack of upkeep on their properties. Sam Brannan spoke in favor of Libertyland. She thanked all of the council members for their service. She encouraged citizens to vote and will accept the final outcome. Mayor Salamun said early voting has begun for the January 20, 2026 special election. He said the citizens will decide on the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district for this project.

NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS -- Items 2 - 37

CONSENT ITEMS -- Items 2 - 36

Eileen Desmond, spoke on item 27, (LF123125-03) regarding the Journey On! Inc. She would like to see the Council Contingency Fund money used for the unhoused, daycare, hot meals, and showers. She said the money could really help more people and instead of those just around Wilson Park.

The following Consent Items were removed from the Non-Public Consent Items:

17. LF123125-05 -- Confirm the Appointments of Caleb Arceneaux, Nick Bonkoski, Harry Christianson, Logan Steffens, and Casey Thompson to the Newly-Formed Hotel Business Improvement District Board No. 2

27. LF123125-03 -- Acknowledge Presentation by Stephanie Kor of Journey On! Inc. and Approve a Proposed Solution, Including a Request of \$40,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to Support Safety and Community Presence Efforts at Wilson Park and Wilson Elementary

Motion was made by Evans, second by Maher to approve items 2-36 with the exception of items 17 and 27. Motion carried 10-0.

Approve Minutes

2. Approve Minutes for the December 15, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

3. Approve Minutes for the December 23, 2025 Special Council Meeting.

Public Works Committee Consent Items

4. PW123025-01: Approve Change Order 9F To MAC Construction Company, Inc. For Rapid City Fire Station 1, Project No. 2612 For An Increase Of \$59,189.42.

5. PW123025-02: Approve Change Order 4F To Reede Construction For Sheridan Lake Road Reconstruction Corral Drive To Catron Boulevard, Project No. 2737 / CIP No. 51122.2 For A Decrease Of \$85,438.36.

6. PW123025-03: Authorize Mayor And Finance Director To Sign Agreement Between The City Of Rapid City And American Engineering And Testing, Inc For Annual Contract Renewal Work Plan For Sampling, Analysis, And Reporting Related To 2026 Environmental Monitoring For The Rapid City Landfill, Project No. 2722 / CIP No. 51371, In The Amount Of \$12,087.88.

7. PW123025-04: Authorize Mayor And Finance Director To Sign Professional

Services Agreement Between The City Of Rapid City And Bartlett & West, Inc. For Well 4 Improvements Project, Project No. 2742.3, CIP No. 50805, For An Amount Not To Exceed \$622,468.00.

8. PW123025-05: Authorize Staff To Advertise Bids For Robbinsdale Phase 6D Fairmont Utility Reconstruction Project, Project No. 2519 / CIP 51232-D. Estimated Cost Of \$3,585,000.

9. PW123025-06: Authorize Staff To Advertise Bids For Perrine Drainage Basin Ponds 101 And 104, Project No. 2743/CIP 51189.4. Estimated Cost Of \$1,700,000

10. PW123025-07: Authorize Staff To Advertise Bids For SD Hwy 79 And Old Folsom Road Traffic Signal, Project No. 2845 / CIP No. 51348. Estimated Cost: 885,680.00

11. PW123025-08: Approve Request By All Around Construction Inc., For A Variance To Waive The Requirement To Install Sidewalk Along Columbus Street And 3rd Street As Required Per 12.08.060 Of The Rapid City Municipal Code.

12. PW123025-09: Approve Request By Andrew Wright, For A Variance To Waive The Requirement To Install Sidewalk Along W. Omaha Street As Required Per 12.08.060 Of The Rapid City Municipal Code.

13. PW123025-10: Approve Change Order 1F To Integrated Mechanical Solutions, LLC For Ice Arena Cooling Tower Replacement, Project No. PR25-6199, For An Increase Of \$80,797.27

14. PW123025-11: Authorize Staff To Purchase A John Deere 1575 Terracut Mower With Addons From RDO Equipment Co., Utilizing Pricing From Sourcewell Contract 112624-DAC, In The Amount Of \$54,751.09.

15. PW123025-12: Authorize Staff To Harvest 100 White-Tail Deer During The 2026 Deer Mitigation Program

16. PW123025-13: Authorize Staff To Advertise Bids For Library First Floor Reimagination Project – Project No. 2863 / CIP No. 10001. Estimated Cost \$695,071.00.

Legal & Finance Committee Consent Items

18. LF123125-07 -- Confirm the Reappointment of Lloyd LaCroix to the Community Relations Commission, Formerly HRC/MOA Commission

19. LF123125-12 -- Confirm the Appointments of Chris Johnson and Ivy Allard to the Monument Board of Directors

20. Acknowledge the Following Volunteers for Worker's Compensation Purposes: Ann Brunswig, Steven Brunswig, and Anthony Clark (RSVP+)

21. LF123125-06 -- Acknowledge October 2025 Sales Tax Report

22. LF123125-09 -- Acknowledge November 2025 Treasury and General Fund Update

23. LF123125-10 -- Approve Resolution No. 2026-004, a Resolution Adopting City Council Liaison Policy for Committees, Boards, and Commissions

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-004

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CITY COUNCIL LIAISON POLICY FOR COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, alderman serving on the City Council are appointed to serve as liaisons to various City committees, boards, and commissions; and

WHEREAS, liaison assignments are intended to promote effective communication and coordination between the City Council and such committees, boards, and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish clear and consistent guidance regarding the role, appointment, and expectations of City Council liaisons; and

WHEREAS, liaison service is distinct from City Council service on the Legal & Finance Committee and the Public Works Committee, which are governed separately;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rapid City Common Council that a City Council Liaison Policy be adopted to read as follows:

City Council Liaison Policy for Committees, Boards, and Commissions

Section 1 - Purpose.

The purpose of this policy is to define the role, expectations, and responsibilities of City Council members appointed to serve as liaisons to City committees, boards, and commissions. This policy does not apply to the Legal & Finance Committee or the Public Works Committee.

Section 2 - Policy Statement.

City Council liaisons serve as a communication link between the City Council and the committees, boards, and commissions to which they are assigned. Liaisons serve in an advisory and informational capacity unless otherwise provided by ordinance or committee bylaws. Attendance at all meetings is not required unless the liaison serves as a voting member.

Section 3 - Appointment.

Liaisons shall be appointed by the President of the City Council. The Council President may reassign or remove a liaison from any committee, board, or commission at the President's discretion. The Council President, or designee, shall ensure that changes in liaison assignments are communicated to the affected committee and appropriate City staff in a timely manner.

Liaisons shall act as a conduit for information between the assigned committee and the City Council or City staff, as appropriate. When attending meetings as a non-voting participant, liaisons shall refrain from directing the committee's work and shall respect the advisory nature of their role.

B. Attendance.

Liaisons are expected to attend meetings periodically and remain informed regarding the activities of their assigned committee. Regular attendance is required only when the liaison serves as a voting member. Committees with voting liaison appointments include, but are not limited to:

- Rapid City Library Board of Trustees
- Opportunity Capture Fund Oversight Board
- Executive Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Performing Arts Board
- Humane Society Board of Directors
- Journey Museum Board of Directors

Liaisons serving as voting members shall make every reasonable effort to attend meetings in order to fulfill their responsibilities.

C. Education.

Liaisons shall familiarize themselves with the mission, scope, authority, and governing structure of their assigned committee. Liaisons are encouraged to consult with committee members or City staff to gain clarity on committee operations or matters under review.

D. Availability.

Liaisons shall make themselves reasonably available to committee members and City staff to answer questions or provide guidance related to matters within the committee's scope of work.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2026

CITY OF RAPID CITY

s/ Jason Salamun

ATTEST:

s/ Daniel Ainslie

Finance Director

(SEAL)

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