

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
Rapid City, South Dakota

October 24, 2005

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rapid City was held at the City/School Administration Center in Rapid City, South Dakota, on Monday, October 24, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Jim Shaw and the following Alderpersons: Mike Schumacher, Ray Hadley, Karen Olson, Bill Okrepkie, Tom Johnson, Ron Kroeger, Deb Hadcock, Bob Hurlbut, Malcom Chapman and Sam Kooiker. The following Alderpersons arrived during the course of the meeting: None; and the following were absent: None.

Mayor Shaw explained that this is the beginning of the third five-year plan for the 2012 Program which was started in the 1990s. The 2012 Program is funded by a half penny sales tax collected in Rapid City which generates approximately \$8 million annually. Shaw added that Rapid City is the only community in the State of South Dakota that sets aside a portion of the second penny sales tax for capital improvement projects. The idea of the 2012 Program is to find a way to pay for large projects beyond the normal routine operation of city government. There have been 25 projects completed in the first two rounds of the Vision 2012 Program. Now the city is ready to embark on the third Five Year Plan. The item being discussed by the Council tonight is the recommendation from the 2012 Committee. Shaw added that the 2012 Committee has recommended that the City bond for the projects rather than using the Pay As You Go Plan previously discussed. This will provide more funding at the beginning of the program.

Alderman Johnson stated that the Council has set a time for public comment on the projects from 7:00 to 9:00 and the discussion will be limited to projects that have already been submitted for consideration. No new projects will be discussed. Also, each speaker will be limited to three minutes so that everyone has an opportunity to voice their concerns. Motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Olson to set the public hearing from 7:00 to 9:00 and limit the time to three minutes per individual; and that the only projects to be discussed are those submitted by the Citizen Committees or the 2012 Committee. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Carol Brown spoke in support of the **Skyline Wilderness Area** project. This is a \$2 Million project of which \$1.3 million has already been raised. She explained that their Board was not aware until recently that taxes and interest were not eligible expenses for funding from the 2012 Fund. She added that when they found this out, they began actively fund raising to pay the back taxes and interest on the existing mortgage. She reported that the interest on the mortgage is now current and they have \$10,000-\$20,000 in the bank to pay on the taxes that are due. The Board is requesting \$737,144.85 from the 2012 Fund to retire the mortgage on the property. Brown added that there is a great deal of support for this project throughout the entire community. It includes 150 acres of pristine land located in the heart of Rapid City and it is an area that can be used by everyone, no matter where their interests lie.

Richard Schamber spoke in support of the **ATTA Pow-Wow Gardens**. This project is an opportunity for this area and the Black Hills to continue a lot of work that has been going on over the last few decades toward healing the divide between the cultures that exist in Rapid City and the Black Hills.

Chuck Baldwin spoke on behalf of the **Humane Society** and their proposal for a recovery facility to house animals after they have been spayed or neutered. The Humane Society received funding from a local family to provide a mobile facility that is able to provide spaying and neutering services, however, the animals need a place to recover after these procedures. Currently, the employees at the Humane Society have given up their break room to provide a recovery area. The proposal is to renovate the old animal shelter building for this use.

Matt Reed was present to speak in support of the **CVB Sports Council** and the proposal for **Artificial Turf at SDSM&T**. He noted that the economic value of sports marketing studies show that there are significantly more injuries on natural grass than on the turf being proposed for the O'Hare Stadium Facility. Also, the costs for maintenance of the natural grass (watering, chemicals and staff time) could be better utilized in other areas. Reed also spoke in support of the Soccer Complex being proposed on city-owned land on Highway 44 East.

Bill Kessloff spoke in support of the **Skyline Wilderness Project**. He noted that all of the 2012 projects completed to date have been for brick and mortar projects except renovations to Canyon Lake. Both Canyon Lake and Skyline Drive are important parts of the community that need to be maintained and preserved. He added that once this area is lost to developers it cannot be recovered; it will be lost forever.

Joan Martin appeared before the Council to support the **Soccer Complex** proposed in East Rapid City. This complex will bring a great deal of economic value to the community as well as providing a place for the youth in our area to play soccer. Martin added that revenues to maintain the complex will come from the players who play soccer in the community. We are asking that the City provide the land and \$3.8 million to construct the facility. Along with that, we request that the city pay for the water that will be required to maintain the facility. All other costs will be borne by the people who use the complex. Martin added that there will be bike trails, a playground area, gazebos, garden areas, and covered shelters. The community will be able to use this area as a park for recreation, picnics, family gatherings and other events.

John Wagner requested that the City Council carefully consider funding for an **Arts Facility** in the community. Currently the Council has indicated that the two arts groups in the community must come together on a project or funding will not be approved. Wagner suggested that the City Council immediately get involved with this and do some type of survey to find out what the community wants. This could bring valuable information to both sides of the arts issue, and if the Council has to decide, you would have a much better idea of how to make that decision.

Charlie Colombe, President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe spoke in support of the **ATTA Pow-Wow Gardens** project. Thousands of Native American people come to Rapid City and the Black Hills weekly and annually for celebrations that are held here. The Black Hills are considered our homeland by many Native American people. Colombe added that this type of project, which can build a bridge between cultures, is very important and could give people a feeling of ownership in the community.

Robb Campbell spoke in support of the **Skyline Drive Preservation** Project and urged the Council to give consideration to funding this project.

Mike LeMay spoke against funding renovation or construction at the **Civic Center**. He stated that he feels the 2012 Program was intend to give back to the community for things that anyone can go to or participate in.

Jason Tinant spoke in support of the **Skyline Drive Wilderness Area**. He noted that he moved back to this area because of the quality of life offered throughout the community, including the Skyline Drive area. He also informed the Council that he is doing a long-term study in conjunction with the Oglala College on vegetation in this area which will be tied to a study being done on birds and their migration habits.

Tim Henderson from the SD School of Mines and Darren Paulson, Activities Director at Central High School, spoke in support of **Artificial Turf at O'Hare Stadium**. This project was recommended for funding from the Civic Improvements Committee. O'Hare Stadium is a community facility that is used for high school and college sporting events as well as community events like the Relay for Life. Henderson noted that updating this turf will keep Rapid City competitive with other cities in the State. The total project cost is approximately \$700,000 and they are requesting funding in the amount of \$280,000 from the 2012 Fund.

Art Zimiga spoke on behalf of the **Pow-Wow Gardens** noting that this will be a very good project for the community and will promote awareness and understanding of different cultures.

Pat Wyss spoke in favor of the **Skyline Drive Wilderness**, the **Soccer Complex** and the **Pow-Wow Gardens**. These are all projects that will benefit the community.

Ryan Nankivel, representing the Rushmore Curling Club, expressed disappointment in the process used for the 2012 program. There were no guidelines available to indicate how the different projects were going to be judged. He was also disappointed that not all the projects were forwarded to the City Council for consideration. He encouraged the Council to re-think the process before the next round of hearings.

Larry Kaiser, representing Soccer Rapid City, and Randy Eide from the Rapid City Youth Soccer League, spoke on behalf of the **Soccer Complex**. This project will benefit the entire community and all generations and cultures in the area. Eide noted that soccer is at 100% capacity on the existing fields in Raid City at the present time. He stated that we need this facility and we need it fast.

Robert Cook, Gorgie Paulhamus, Marion Goodluck and Myrna Leader Charge Trimble spoke in favor of the **Pow-Wow Gardens** project. Rapid City is the hub of the Northern Plains Indian Tribes arts and cultural events. This project will be an economic benefit for everyone in the community. Paulhamus added that a firm foundation has been built in this community for reconciliation and diversity. The Pow-Wow Gardens would be a great project which would allow for gatherings of Indian people who come to the community. The project will also bring a great deal of economic value to the entire community.

Bruce Eaton was present to support the **Skyline Drive Wilderness Project** and the **Hospice House Project**.

Alderman Johnson asked the City Council members if they another public hearing is necessary on the 2012 projects. Olson stated that the City has been looking at these projects with great care and the Council appreciates the work done by the 27 people who served on the Citizen

Committees. Olson stated that she supports moving forward with the procedure to enact an ordinance implementing the 2012 Plan, with first reading being at the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee meeting in November.

Chapman agreed that the Council is ready to move ahead with first reading of an ordinance at the first meeting in November.

Motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Hurlbut to direct staff to prepare an ordinance enacting the 2012 Plan, for consideration at the Legal & Finance Committee on November 2, 2005.

Kooiker suggested that the Council request a Pro Forma or Analysis from the Civic Center on whether they would be able to bond for a portion of their renovation project. This may not be possible, but would be good information for the Council to have. Also, if the Council intends to fund some of the projects discussed tonight, funding for other projects would have to be adjusted.

Mike Schumacher noted that if the Civic Center is able to bond for a portion of the renovation project, the City Council could consider approving projects that currently are unfunded.

Johnson agreed to add Kooiker's request for a bonding analysis on the Civic Center project to his motion. Hurlbut concurred.

Mayor Shaw restated the motion on the floor: Request staff to prepare first reading of an ordinance implementing the 2012 Plan for consideration at the next Legal & Finance Committee Meeting, and request information from the Civic Center on the possibility of bonding for a portion of the renovation project.

Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P. M.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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Finance Officer

(SEAL)