

RAPID CITY PROGRESS REPORT

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Exchanged 2010 Chevy Tahoe for 2007 Chevy Impala to be used only for official City business. Tahoe was given to Police Department as a patrol vehicle.
- Eliminated special Mayor's parking space at Civic Center, Airport, and the City/School Administration Center.
- Eliminated vacant positions to reduce Operation and Maintenance costs.
- Vetoed a questionable \$100,000 landfill rate study; veto was unanimously upheld.
- Streamlined staffing of the information desk near the front door of City Hall.
- Eliminated bottled water for caucus room, excess special Council meetings when possible; Reduced/eliminated paper agendas and reports.

TRANSPARENCY

- Upon taking office I discovered City Hall had spent into the reserves (14 months since 2009). Ordinance 5671 now requires frequent financial reports so the Council and community are fully aware of the City's financial condition. No longer will the City spend into reserves without the council and community being informed.
- Expanded notification of public meetings to include all media when agendas are posted for Council meetings and key committees.
- Providing the Council with information on employee grievances to help increase flow of information.
- Declined free membership to private country club and asked for it to be donated to United Way.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

- Led the effort to pass an ordinance requiring Mayor/Council's Executive Assistant/Program Coordinator to be confirmed by Council. My appointment of Michael Howard for this position was the first ever approved by Council.
- Travel Policy amended to not allow per diem requests unless there was an expense and reinstated a trigger for Council approval for trips of \$5,000 per person or department.

INCREASED ACCESS TO CITY GOVERNMENT

- New polling location established at Lakota Community Homes for citizens living north of I-90. New location provides easier access to voting and will facilitate greater community participation in elections.
- Hours of operation for eight City offices were extended from 4pm to 5pm.
- Implemented disability consideration policy to assist people with disabilities in the job application process.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Installed Instant Messaging program for all City employees to improve internal communications and increase efficiency.
- Instituted weekly internal update sent to all City employees, increasing employee involvement, participation, awareness, and morale.
- Amended City policy to help prevent future destruction of official data.
- Changed the name of Growth Management to Community Planning and Development Services to encourage a user friendly atmosphere; continuing to streamline processes.

APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed new Public Works Director, Terry Wolterstorff, who is committed to reducing red tape while protecting taxpayers. Among his first tasks will be the review of the consultant selection process. Wolterstorff began his duties October 13.
- Appointed Tamara Pier as Interim City Attorney to ensure community's needs are met by having fully staffed City Attorney's office during the transition.
- 1972 Flood 40th Anniversary Memorial Commemoration Steering Committee has been appointed to prepare for commemoration events the weekend of June 9, 2012.

PROJECTS PENDING

BUDGET REFORMS

- Switching from line-item budgeting to Budgeting for Outcomes (Performance Based Budgeting) for FY2013. This method will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditures by linking the funding to the results they deliver and making systematic use of performance information. Simply put, we will focus on goals and outcomes rather than the old-fashioned, business as usual method of line-item budgeting.

COMPASS ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

- Ordinance 5751 creates an independent review process for all City programs to find opportunities for savings and increased efficiency. Implementation is in progress.

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Working on installing a 2nd waterline to the Airport to increase water flow and serve future needs. Current fire flows are only 1/2 of what they should be.
- Economic Development - working to establish a manufacturing presence on the Economic Development Board. City's website now includes comprehensive information for businesses.
- Untangling the current mess of interdepartmental charges.
- Evaluate Vendors and Contracts and doing Request for Proposals (RFP's) to get the best deal; reviewing opportunities for consolidation.
- Reviewing all software support contracts to determine if we can get a better deal (i.e. by switching to "per event" billing instead of annual contracts).
- Evaluating the older Tax Increment Financing districts and expiring them as soon as possible so these dollars will be available for general fund use.
- Use of closed sessions in Rapid City was reformed in July 2011, but my goal is to also find a way to keep minutes and/or recordings of closed session.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Rapid City. Together our new Council and I have experienced many challenges, including the tragic loss of two police officers, Ryan McCandless and Nick Armstrong, on August 2, and the serious injury of Officer Tim Doyle.

It is important to note that many of the items listed above were the result of a joint effort between City Council, Department Directors, all of our employees, citizens, and myself.

We are a team.