

City Manager Form of Government in Question

At the City Council meeting on June 6, a local resident informed the Council that she was organizing a petition within the community to end the City Manager form of government.

Since that time, discussions have taken place questioning the various forms of government and how they affect both the city and the community.

Mayor Mark Carstensen is trying to make it clear that it is well within the right of a citizen to organize a petition and if the issue goes to a vote, it is very important for those involved to have a clear understanding of the process.

The first step in changing our form of government is to mandate a vote (via petition) to end the current City Manager form of government. It is important for residents to understand that this vote simply ends the current form of government. It does not mean that the City would hire a City Administrator. Once the City Manager form of government ends, the government is returned to a Mayoral/Aldermanic form of government

just like we had prior to 2007 when the City voted to change to a City Manager.

If the Mayoral/Aldermanic form of government is reinstated, it would be entirely up to the Council to decide what changes they would like to make. One option would be to request the Mayor to work full-time instead of part-time. Another option would be to hire a City Administrator as an assistant to the Mayor. Yet another option could be a combination of the first two options. There would be no public vote involved in this decision, it would be entirely up to the Council to decide if and when any further action would take place.

A change in the form of government does not change the level of authority that the Council has. The Council has always had the same amount of authority that they have today.

The following comparison helps summarize the main differences between a City Manager and a Mayoral/Aldermanic form of government.

Point of Comparison	City Manager Government	Mayor/Aldermanic Government
Role of City Council	Council sets policy and vision for the City and directs the City Manager to implement those items. Provides fiscal oversight; is responsible for appropriations, oversees day-to-day administration with guidance from the Council and a part-time Mayor who's role is primarily ceremonial with regard to public relations activities.	Council sets policy and vision for the City and ensures they are carried out by various methods. Provides fiscal oversight; is responsible for appropriations; pass ordinances, oversees day-to-day administration through committees, a City Administrator or the Mayor who leads the City Council. The mayor may have an assistant known as a City Administrator who would manage day-to-day activities assigned by Council.
Authority to Influence Policy	None. The Manager can only provide opinion and administrative guidance.	The Council sets all policies in all forms of government.

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Happy 4th of July!

Items of Interest

- Sturgis Liquor Grand Opening** June 30 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- City offices will be closed on Monday, July 4.** Trash normally picked up on Monday will be picked up on Tuesday, July 5.
- 4th of July Celebration** at the Fairgrounds.
- Orlando Chamber Soloists** *Teddy Bear Series* - stories set to classical music July 5 and 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sturgis Library.
- Public Safety Day** July 9 at the Community Center.
- BAM** event at the City Park July 9.
- Orlando Chamber Soloists Children's Family Concert** *Celebration of Nature Through Music* - July 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sturgis Community Center.
- Ft. Meade Remount** July 29 - 31 at Ft. Meade.

Announcements and Meetings

- Sturgis City Council:** July 5 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Erskine Building.
- Forestry:** July 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sturgis Fire Hall.
- Park Board:** July 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Morman Law office.
- Planning and Zoning:** July 12 and 26 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, Room B.
- MUB:** July 13 at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall, Room A.
- Sturgis Arts Council:** July 14 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room A.
- Library Board:** July 27 at 4:00 p.m. at the Sturgis Library.

Officials

- Mayor**
Mark Carstensen 490-1044
- Council Members**
- Ward One:
Joe DesJarlais 347-7928
Kelly Vasknetz 490-0361
- Ward Two:
David Hersrud 347-5061
Marcia Johnston 347-2483
- Ward Three:
Clint Brengle 720-0171
Jamie McVay 720-5780
- Ward Four:
Tim Potts 720-4233
Dane Sundstrom 490-1172
- City Manager**
Vacant

Point of Comparison	City Manager	Mayor/Aldermanic Government
Length of Service	Specified by state statute, the City Manager can be terminated by Council Resolution with 30 days notice.	Mayor and Council are elected and serve for a term of two years.
Assignment of Responsibilities	Established by state statute SDCL Title 9, Chapter 10. A City Manager is responsible for implementing the goals and policies of the Council. Day-to-day administration of the city including supervision of all employees. Responsible for preparing the annual budget and provides updates on a regular basis.	The Mayor and Council are responsible for setting policy and ensuring that the policy is carried out. Generally, several Committees and Boards (as set by statute and ordinance) are formed to provide some degree of oversight to city departments.
Council's Involvement in Day-to-Day Administration	None	The Council is heavily involved. In order to comply with open meetings and time limitations, several Committees and Boards are needed to provide oversight of operations but Committees cannot hire or fire employees. This system can be time-consuming as it is difficult to prioritize requests and coordinate communication and reporting between the Committees and the full Council.
Reporting Relationship	The City Manager reports to the entire Council. Department Heads report to the City Manager. A limited number of Committees are in place and Boards are set by statute and ordinance.	All Department Heads, Boards and Committees report to the entire Council. If an Administrator is in place, they may report to the entire Council but generally they work more closely with the Mayor.
Relationship with Employees	The City Manager handles the recruiting, hiring, and firing of employees - he/she also acts as a buffer from political influence.	Council retains the ability to hire/fire staff at its discretion. Employees can be given conflicting direction from several Council members. This system can be time-consuming as it is difficult to prioritize requests and coordinate communication between the oversight Committees and the full Council.



Community Center Summer hours:
Monday - Friday 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday Noon to 5:00 p.m.



Johnston Appointed as Ward 2 Councilor

On June 20, the City Council confirmed the appointment of Marcia Johnston as Ward 2 Council Representative. The position became vacant when the former Ward 2 Councilman, Mark Carstensen, was elected as the Sturgis Mayor. The appointment will fill the position until the next election in April of 2012, at which time the position will be on the election ballot as a regular seat. Marcia and her husband own Johnston's Hardware Hank.



Public Safety Day Set For July 9



If you have ever wondered what it would be like to drive a patrol car, roll a vehicle, or shoot a sniper rifle, then you won't want to miss the interactive opportunities that will be offered at this year's Public Safety Day on July 9. The fun starts at 10:00 a.m. at the Sturgis Community Center. Several agencies will be included in this year's interactive event including the Sturgis Police and Fire Departments, the SD Highway Patrol, SD Division of Criminal Investigation, SWAT teams, the SD National Guard, and special units from EAFB.

A full schedule of events will be posted on the City website at www.sturgis-sd.gov prior to the event.

July 4th 100 Year Celebration of the Sturgis Fairgrounds!

Join the Jackpine Gypsies for a free BBQ and Community Pot Luck at 6:00 p.m. (bring a side dish - hot dogs, soda and birthday cake will be provided).

Enjoy the City Fireworks Display at 9:00 p.m.

In August of 2010, a small recycling fee was added to the sanitary portion of all residential and commercial utility bills. This fee is earmarked for an expanded recycling program that will enable the recycling of tin, plastic and glass beginning in 2012.



Contact Information

City Hall 347-4422
City Attorney 347-4422
Code Enforcement 347-4424
Community Development 347-4424
Finance Office 347-4422
Human Resources 347-4422
Rally Department 720-0800
1040 2nd Street

Community Center 347-6513
5:00 - 8:00 Mon. - Fri.
8:00 - 5:00 Sat.
Noon - 5:00 Sun.
1401 Lazelle Street

Fire & Ambulance 347-5801
Emergency 911
7:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.
1901 Ballpark Road

Library 347-2624
8:30 - 7:00 Mon. - Thu.
8:30 - 5:00 Fri.
8:30 - 4:00 Sat.
1040 2nd Street

Liquor Store 347-5983
8:00 - 10:00 Mon. - Sat.
10:00 - 8:00 Sun.
1075 Lazelle Street

Parks Department 347-9018
8:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.
1920 Ballpark Road
Shelter Reservations call
347-4422

Police Department 347-5070
Emergency 911
1400 Main Street

Public Works 347-3916
7:00 - 4:00 Mon. - Fri.
1057 Dudley Street
Rubble Site
8:00 - 5:00 Tue. - Fri.
8:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 5:00
Mon. and Sat.

Water Department 347-4425
8:00 - 4:45 Mon. - Fri.
After Hour Emergency call
Police Dispatch 347-2573
1040 2nd Street