

Past public works official takes on Main Street project

■ Leonard Swanson will help Main Street business owners with water service lines.

By Paulette Tobin
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Former Public Works Director Leonard Swanson has been hired as the project engineer for Rapid City's Main Street reconstruction.

For the rest of the year, Swanson's primary task will be to help Main Street business owners between Fourth Street and Mount Rushmore Road with their buildings' water service lines.

As part of the reconstruction, a new water main will be installed. Building owners need to complete any work on their water lines while the street is torn up, said Larry Kostaneski, manager of the city engineering division.



Swanson

Swanson will contact merchants and building owners and help them identify the type of water service line that currently comes into their building. He also will help them decide whether they need a bigger service line, Kostaneski said.

Beginning next January, when the Main Street reconstruction begins in earnest, Swanson will be the general liaison between merchants and the city, answering questions about such issues as detours, traffic control, and scheduling of street and sidewalk work.

"He will be a constant physical presence," Kostaneski said. "He will be walking around in the area of construction and get questions and concerns back to us as quickly as possible."

Swanson retired in 1987 as public works director after spending 33 years as a city em-

Meeting on Main Street Thursday

A public meeting to help determine scheduling of the Main Street reconstruction project will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the second-floor council chambers of the City/School Administration Center.

At issue is whether the project should go ahead as scheduled, with two separate blocks reconstructed at a time, or whether the project schedule should be amended so that adjoining blocks are under construction at the same time.

Main Street merchants are invited to attend.

ployee. In his new job, he will be paid \$17.30 an hour as a temporary seasonal city employee.

Swanson can be reached through the city engineering division, 394-4154.

Rapid City's Main Street will be rebuilt storefront to storefront, from the underground utilities up, from East Boulevard to West Boulevard. Work is under way at the Fifth Street and Mount Rushmore Road intersections. Block by block reconstruction work will begin in January as weather permits. The project is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 1, 1992.

Heavy Constructors Inc. of Rapid City has the contract on the project: \$3.036 million for the street work plus \$558,431 to fix the underground utilities at the same time.

The state is paying for the street work, and the city is paying for the utility work. Swanson's salary is being paid by the state.