

Parking fines still on council's agenda 1/14

Just like in baseball, people who lease one of Rapid City's **Rapid City** 640 parking spaces downtown may get three strikes if they get a parking ticket because they've failed to display their parking permit. After that, they would have to shell out \$25 for the fine.

The issue started when notices were sent out with the monthly lease bills saying that the city no longer would waive the fine for those who failed to display their parking permit on the rear-view mirror of their car.

City Attorney Adam Altman then said the city would dismiss one violation per year. Those who failed to display their parking permit more than once would have to pay the fine, which increases to \$35 if not paid within 72 hours.

Altman added that a one-day temporary permit could be issued to someone who was using another car and forgot to transfer the permit to the second vehicle.

That was not acceptable to everyone, however.

City-council members said other options should be considered. Downtown businesswoman Jodie Byington agreed.

"We've paid for the service," Byington said. "We're just asking that you give us an opportunity to come in with the ticket and our permit. Find those who are abusing the system, and have them pay the \$25 fine."

Alderman Martha Rodriguez said airport employees and pilots have a credit card that is scanned in order to enter and exit the airport parking lot. Such a card is small enough to carry in a wallet and would not be left behind if a person changes cars. She suggested the city find out the cost of that program and consider that option.

After a variety of other options were proposed, the committee recommended the three-strike program for further discussion at Monday's city-council meeting.