

Council awards bid for parking ramp

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Here's a tip: When shopping for a king cab dually pick-up, opt for the power steering if you plan to lease a spot in Rapid City's new downtown parking ramp.

Monday, the Rapid City Council approved a Planned Commercial Development for the ramp to be built between Fifth and Sixth streets south of Rapid Street. The approved design calls for parking lanes eight and one-half feet wide, plus 24-foot-wide travel lanes.

The Rapid City Planning Commission had recommended that stalls be 9 feet wide and travel lanes 26 feet wide to comply with city standards. Changing the stall width would have cut about 22 spaces from the 320-stall facility. Widening the travel lanes would have required a redesign.

Aldermen said stalls should be striped to allow some larger spaces for larger vehicles — i.e., your dually pick-up.

The council then awarded the bid for construction to Gustafson Builders/Heavy Construction, which submitted the low bid of \$1,005,900 for a ramp with brick on its north and south sides.

That's less than the city's estimate of \$2.1 mil-

lion. Community Development Director Bonnie Hughes said there should be plenty of cushion in case of unexpected soil problems on the site.

The council also voted 8-2 to submit a pre-application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant through the state Division of Emergency Management.

The pre-application will include a request for funding to buy out the five or six homes affected by last summer's landslides on Dinosaur Hill, which Hughes said would be a worst-case scenario.

Tom Johnson and Stan Petrik voted no. Petrik said he is concerned about liability, even though the pre-application does not bind the city to buy out those properties if it receives grant money.

In other action, the council:

■ Voted 7-3 to rezone property at 305 La Crosse St. from Medium Density Residential to General Commercial and to allow a Planned Commercial Development at that site. Area residents had petitioned against the rezoning. Aldermen Karen Bulman, Petrik and Ron Kroeger voted no, which was what the Rapid City Planning Commission had recommended.

■ Voted 7-3 to allow a casino/bar at 15 New York St., despite several people who said a liquor establishment would be a bad addition in an area known for transients. Aldermen Kroeger, Petrik and Al Cornella voted no.