

# City eases up on parking violations

■ Legal & Finance Committee will continue the discussion at its Jan. 15 meeting.

People who lease one of Rapid City's 640 parking spaces downtown and forget to display their permit may get a reprieve from the \$25 fine if they provide evidence that they have a permit.

At least, that's the way the city council was headed during the discussion at Monday's Rapid City

Council meeting.

The issue started when the city sent notices with monthly lease bills that it no longer would waive the fine.

City Attorney Adam Altman said the city would dismiss one violation per year. Anyone who failed to display a parking permit more than once would face the \$25 fine. The fine increases to \$35 if not paid within 72 hours.

Altman added that a one-day temporary permit could be issued for anyone who forgot to display his or her

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permit while using a different car.

That was not acceptable to everyone.

"Customer service goes beyond taking the money and the fine," Jodie Byington, a downtown businesswoman, said. "We'll have everyone downtown here if this goes further."

Alderman Martha Rodriguez, who owns a downtown business, said several people went to her business to complain about the policy change.

Alderman Rick Kriebel proposed dismissing the fine for anyone who presents both a parking ticket and a permit.

Discussion on making that the official city policy will be discussed at the Legal & Finance Committee on Jan. 15.