

# Parking rates, fines may go up

■ Parking increases could help fund proposed downtown parking ramp.

By Mark Andersen  
Journal Staff Writer

Fines for illegal downtown parking in Rapid City would jump 250 percent under a proposal recommended Wednesday.

Leases for parking in downtown city lots would about double or triple.

The Rapid City Council Legal and Finance Committee approved the rate increases Wednesday. The city council will take up the issue on Monday.

If approved, new downtown parking fines will rise from \$2 to \$5. Currently, the fine increases to \$7 after 72 hours. It would increase to \$10 under the proposal.

Parking leases, meanwhile, would mostly increase to \$30 per month after July 1, 1997. The current rates vary widely.

A stall in the lot at Sixth and Main streets can now be leased for an annual sum of \$100. After July 1, the same stall will cost \$360.

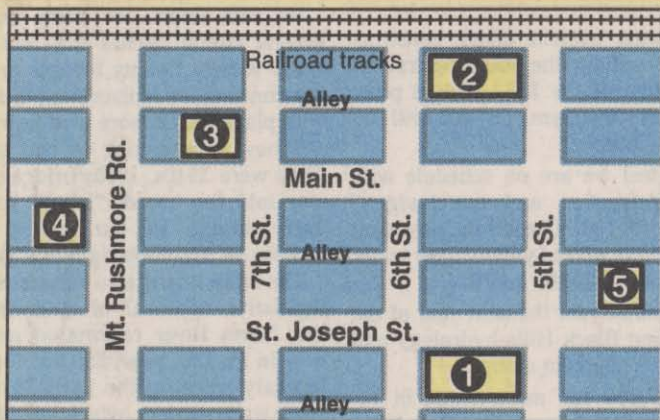
After July 1, 1997, the cheapest downtown city stall will cost \$240.

The rate increases come after a

■ *Volunteers may tag illegal handicapped parkers*  
■ *Planned development option delayed*  
■ *C/SAC fountain to be fixed*

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## City parking rate increase proposal



	Present rates		Proposed monthly rates	
	Monthly	Quarterly*	After 1-1-97	After 7-1-97
① 5th & St Joseph St.	\$20	\$45	\$20	\$30
② 6th & Main St.	\$10	\$25	\$20	\$30
③ 7th & Main St.	\$20	\$45	\$20	\$30
④ 8th** & Main St.	\$20	\$45	\$20	\$30
⑤ Stockgrowers	\$10	\$25	-	\$20

\*\* Mt. Rushmore Rd.

\*Quarterly rates will be eliminated

Journal graphic/Marty Two Bulls

lengthy period in which there were no increases in parking fines or lease rates, said Bonnie Hughes, community development director.

Rapid City rates are below those in communities surveyed for a study, she said.

The fines also could be used to help pay for a downtown parking ramp.

Rapid City is considering plans to build a 320-car, two-level parking ramp on the existing municipal lot north of Main Street between Fifth

and Sixth streets.

Discussion of the estimated \$2 million ramp was delayed from Wednesday's meeting due to late changes in the financial analysis. However, some revenues for the ramp would come from the rate increases approved Wednesday.

Hughes told aldermen that ramp planners believe the responsibility of paying for a new ramp should be

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# Parking: Going up

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shared by the city and the downtown.

In other parts of the city, businesses are required to provide parking for employees and patrons. There is no similar requirement downtown.

Rapid City studied the need to build more downtown parking in 1991. At that time, there were some parking shortages in selected areas but there was more of a perception of shortages.

A new study concludes that demand for parking has since increased and will continue to increase.

Presently, there is a waiting list for some leased parking, Hughes said.

Under the new lease rates, paying by the quarter will end on Jan. 1 at

most city lots. At the same time, monthly rates at some lots will increase to \$20 per month. The rates jump \$10 more next July.

However, the lot behind the Stockgrowers building at Fifth Street and St. Joseph will remain on the quarterly rate until July 1. It will then increase to \$20 per month.

The Stockgrowers lot has lower use and the cheaper rate will encourage more patrons, Hughes said. (See page A1 graphic for detailed rate changes.)

City officials at an earlier meeting also talked about changing parking meters to grant less time for the same amount of money. However, that element was not included in the plan recommended Wednesday.