

# Council ups rates for lease parking

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11/19

Maybe it's time to ask the boss for that raise.

People who lease parking spaces in city-owned lots in downtown Rapid City will pay up to three times as much for their spots by next July, under a new fee schedule approved Monday by the Rapid City Council.

Lease rates currently vary from \$10 to \$20 per month. Monthly rates for some lots will increase Jan. 1. Others won't increase until July 1. But all will go up, with spaces in most lots to cost \$30 per month.

Alderman Tom Johnson cast the lone dissenting vote, saying the city needs a long-range parking plan before it raises fees. "I just believe that I'd like to have a clear picture of what we are doing," he said.

Others said city parking rates will still be cheap, even after the increase.

In a related matter, the council passed first reading of an ordinance that would raise parking fines from \$2 to \$5 if paid within 72 hours. After 72 hours, fines would increase from \$7 to \$10.

Johnson again cast the lone "no" vote. "I believe that raising a parking fee from \$2 to \$5 is too much," he said. "I think what we're going to do is drive people away from downtown."

Alderman C.C. "Buzz" Knapp disagreed. "I think we're in line charging \$5," he said. "We're way behind in raising that fee."

The council also referred to its legal and finance committee a plan to have volunteers issue tickets for handicapped parking violations. That meeting, which would normally be held Nov. 27, has been rescheduled to Nov. 26 due to Thanksgiving.

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# Parking: Bid OK'd to repair fountain outside C/SAC

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Also on Monday, council members voted 9-1 to approve a bid for \$34,520 from Scull Construction to repair the fountain outside the City/School Administration Center. It has never worked properly.

Johnson voted no. "I think we're going to waste even more money," he said. "I think we ought to make a planter out of the whole thing."

Resident Lori Templeton agreed, saying it was wrong to spend money to beautify C-SAC when programs like the library and city recreation were short of funds.

Other aldermen said they owed it to citizens

who donated more than \$64,000 to pay for the fountain to get it fixed. "A lot of people feel we have an obligation to (them)," Knapp said.

The city's share of the fix is \$20,712. The rest will be paid by the school district. The work will have a one-year warranty.

The council also:

■ Heard Mayor Ed McLaughlin proclaim this Homeless Awareness Week in Rapid City. Dr. John Lassagard, medical director of Rapid City Community Health Center and homeless health care services, received the Outstanding Citizen Award for his efforts.

■ Referred a plan to readvertise for bids for bus bench and exterior bus advertising to the next legal and finance meeting.

■ Unanimously denied a request from Brett Lee for a merchant security license upon recommendation of Police Chief Tom Hennies. Hennies said Lee had been arrested for assault and battery and writing insufficient funds checks several times.

■ Voted 7-3 to approve a change order increasing the cost of the Material Recovery Facility Composting Building by \$2,456. Aldermen Jim Kissell, Don Kennedy, Frank O'Grady, Grace Mickelson, Karen Bulman, Jim Shaw and Babe Steinburg voting yes. Aldermen Johnson, Knapp and Stan Petrik voted no.

"I think we're getting ripped off out there," Knapp said.

"We're paying our architect too much to

learn on the job," Johnson agreed, saying the change order sounded like "just another mistake."

■ Approved requests for a new on-off sale malt beverage license and a new on-sale wine license for Fiestas at Chaps, even though store clerks were caught selling alcohol to minors in June and October.

Business owner Fred Thurston has agreed to implement a strict policy requiring employees to attend responsible alcohol service classes, and stating that employees who sell to minors will be fired. In light of that, Hennies recommended approval of the licenses.

■ Agreed to remove left turn lanes on Main Street at Fifth Street and Mount Rushmore Road.