

City expands parking-limit area

■ Two-hour limit is now enforced between Third and Fourth streets on Main.

By Dan Daly
Staff Writer

If you plan to park your car in downtown Rapid City for more than two hours, watch those signs. The two-hour parking limit has been expanded on Main Street by one block.

But if you rent a parking space from the city in one of its discount lots, your rent won't be raised.

Two-hour parking signs went up last week on

Main Street between Third and Fourth streets, filling in a one-block blank space between two-hour parking zones.

Street parking on both sides of the one-block stretch has been limited to two hours for some time, said Bonnie Hughes, director of Community Development. The city removed parking meters from the one-block stretch along the north side of Main Street two months ago, she said.

"It didn't make sense to have parking meters on one block of what otherwise was a two-hour parking zone," she said.

The zones are intended to keep downtown employees from taking up parking spaces on the street. The city has various metered parking lots,

costing \$1 for an eight-hour day, and other lots with monthly rental fees.

Two such parking lots, on St. Joseph Street between Fourth and Fifth streets, and the other across the railroad tracks from the City/School Administration Center, get little use.

In November, in a six-month experiment to see if more people would lease space in those lots, the city lowered the rent to \$10 per month or \$25 for three months. Before, renters were given a choice of \$20 for a month or \$45 for three months, the same rates that still apply at other downtown lots.

The experiment is over, but Hughes said she won't recommend the rent be raised because the lots still don't get a lot of use.