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Finance committee considers raising parking lot rates

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It is possible the parking rates at the city-leased lot on Fifth and St. Joe might go up.

During discussion of a proposal to lease a second lot at Fifth and Kansas City Thursday, the Rapid City council's legal and finance committee considered raising the present rate to help offset the increase in a new lease.

The city's new Public Parking Board had recommended the city add the old Dodge Town used car lot to city-leased parking to help relieve the parking in the downtown area. The board also had recommended both lots be paved.

However, when the initial proposal for the new lease was presented, the rent jumped from \$350 per month for the St. Joe lot to \$1,000 for both on a three-year lease but with a 90-day cancellation clause.

The parking board reviewed the proposal and recommended the city go ahead with leasing both lots but to forego the paving because of the 90-day clause. As a temporary solution Bill Abernathy, public works director, said the city could go in and smooth out the holes and lay an oil surface for about \$500. It would last three or four months, he said.

Members of the committee felt that at the higher rent, the city should consider increasing the present rental to users, but made no firm recommendation.

The committee referred the proposal to Mayor Don Barnett to enter into negotiations with John Vucurevich of the United National Bank to see if some adjustment can be made in the pro-

posed rent or in the cancellation clause or both.

In other business, the committee will recommend council approval for a 1 cent per mile increase in the contract for car leasing from Frontier Motors starting with the delivery of 1975 model cars. The company had asked for the increase due to the increasing prices on new cars.

The committee also will recommend the council extend the completion time on the new fire station an additional 136 days because of the work stoppage during the labor strike.