

City approves parking board

After making several changes, the city council gave final approval to an ordinance establishing a public parking board during its regular meeting Monday night.

A group of downtown businessmen had urged establishing the board as an advisory agency to study and recommend means for adding off-street parking in the downtown and regulation of other parking. The ordinance, however, extends the advisory authority throughout the city.

Robert Flittie suggested amending the residency requirement for all five members to permit one representative from outside the city. Mayor Don Barnett voiced his objection, stating a non-resident would not be a freeholder in the city.

Flittie replied that he felt the city should use the expertise of downtown businessmen, even though they lived outside the city. They are paying business taxes and have an investment in the city, he argued.

Flittie's amendment, which reads the board shall consist of "five members, four of whom shall be residents," was passed 6-3 with Mike Madden, Robert Apa and Al Wilson voting against. Voting in favor were Flittie, Charles Swander, Harold Schmidt, Jim Kissel, Art La-Croix and Bernita Loucks.

After approving another amendment requiring bi-monthly meetings instead of monthly, the ordinance was approved, again on a 6-3 vote with the same aldermen taking the same sides as on the first amendment.

The names of several citizens have been submitted by Barnett for committee consideration as members but he did not offer any of the names for council approval during the meeting.