

New association recommends creation of parking board

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The council's public works committee heard a recommendation to create a parking board for the downtown business core area during its regular meeting Tuesday.

Making the recommendation were Pete Geyerman and Roger Schneider, who also offered other proposals for relieving the off-street parking problem downtown.

Geyerman said these recommendations come from a newly formed downtown improvement association composed exclusively of downtown merchants and businessmen. He said the group has elected temporary officers and expects to have 90 to 100 per cent membership within the next two months.

Warren Braun was named temporary chairman; Florence Beckers secretary, and Geyerman treasurer.

Geyerman said the appointment of a parking board, as provided for under state law, would be beneficial to the down-

town and suggested that the five-member board be composed predominantly of downtown merchants.

City Atty. Ray Woodsend presented a proposed ordinance that would establish such a board and outlined its membership, duties and responsibilities. The board would be an advisory arm of the city council and its only power would be to make recommendations to the council.

The committee felt the proposal should be given more study but did accept the concept and referred the ordinance to the legal and finance committee for consideration at its meeting Thursday.

Geyerman also proposed the city use money in the parking lot and area fund to acquire property for parking lots on St. Joe. The downtown association has recommended acquiring and leveling the buildings on the south side of the 500 block on St. Joe from the Schneider Music building west to the old Mellgren building (presently occupied by Avco Financial Services and Masters Awards).

He said the merchants would like to see the Mellgren building acquired, too, but the cost might be prohibitive.

As an alternative, the merchants are suggesting acquisition on the north side of St. Joe from the Duhamel building to Fifth Street.

Geyerman added the downtown group also is concerned about adequate off-street parking for Main Street businesses. There is an effort being made to get members to provide for or contribute to employ parking in periphery areas.

In other business, the committee reviewed bids opened at the last council meeting and heard from representatives from dealers on a lease-purchase bid for a front end loader.

The committee also will recommend approval of a change order adding about \$643 to the cost of the new Central Fire Station, including one item for the installation of safety glass doors in the main entrance and another for insulated glass in the officers quarters and watch room.