

Council fails to agree on plans for parking lot

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The east half of the new St. Joseph Street parking lot will not be opened — at least not within the next two weeks.

Monday night the Rapid City Common Council failed to agree on two separate plans to open the east half of the lot.

Alderman Guy Edwards proposed spending \$6,000 to \$8,000 to gravel the east half of the lot. Edwards said the entire lot then could be leased for long-term parking.

Alderman Gale Holbrook proposed spending \$2,000 for gravel on the east half in a gamble that the ground would be hard enough to hold cars.

Both proposals failed by a 4-4 tie vote. (At least six votes are necessary to spend city money.)

City officials had hoped to complete the lot this fall, but problems in acquiring the land and an early snowfall followed by unseasonably warm weather have thwarted plans to open the east half.

The city paid about \$8,000 to gravel the west half of the lot, which is now open for free, all-day parking.

Eventually the lot will be paved for leased parking, valet parking and metered parking.

Mayor Art LaCroix said he would watch the weather closely and if the ground froze he would ask the council to gravel the lot and open it.