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Staff Writer

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One final piece in Rapid City’s efforts to put together a parking lot between Fifth and Sixth streets on St. Joseph Street will fall into place Monday with purchase of the Laughlin Cleaners property.

Seventh Circuit Judge John Kuhlmann, of Rapid City, will visit the Rapid City Commercial Club dinner meeting Monday afternoon authorizing the city to pay Wallace and Sylvia Olson $85,000 for their property, the last holding to be purchased for a parking lot on the block-long parking lot begins.

After reporting details of the settle- ment, the Rapid City Commercial Council Monday night, Assistant City Attorney Mike Diedrich explained that as demolition of the Rapid City Commercial Club Building must be scheduled for next month the property will be sought to tear down the AVCO Financial Center.

During that time the Olson’s will vacate the property so it too can be removed and paving can begin in time to complete the lot before this fall’s Christmas shopping season opens.

Landscaping will not be done until next year, he added.

City Attorney Joe Butler also pleaded before the council for an additional payment to compensate the Olsons for costs of relocating the building.

Because federal funds were not involved in the taking, the city was not obligated under law to pay relocation costs. As the Olsons refused to accept the court-ordered $85,000 “comp- promise,” Butler said. But he did consent to an amicable settlement “in- justice” because under law there was no way the Olsons could recoup costs of being forced to move their equipment and household possessions.

“The cost of relocating the cleaners will equal or exceed the compensation for the land,” he said. It will put the business out of business, Butler said.

He asked the council to arrive at some “reasonable” figure to help the Olsons and their business.

Mayor Art LaCroix directed the city’s attorneys to figure out a relocation cost and report back to the council.

In other action Monday night, the council:

Approved a high-point beer license for the Fuj Japanese restaurant, 1402 E. St. Patrick St., despite objections by the South Rapid Civic Association to issuing any new beer licenses in the business district.

The association felt that there was another auxiliary and the Trench Rats, an organization within the DAV, withdrew requests to place the puba.

Agreed to issue park vendor licenses for Myrna Burnett at Sioux Park swimming pool and Roosevelt Park at Knee Lake, High Rock, and Low Nally at Horace Mann pool and Robinsdale pool. Burnett had asked to operate at Roosevelt and Six-Five park, while Robinson and Nally sought to operate at Roosevelt and Six-Five park.