

# City acquires last building for parking lot

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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 fell into place Monday with purchase of the Laughlin Cleaner property.

Seventh Circuit Judge John Konenkamp signed an order Monday afternoon authorizing the city to pay Wallace and Sylvia Olson \$85,000 for their property, the last holding to be acquired before construction on the block-long parking lot begins.

After reporting details of the settlement to the Rapid City Common Council Monday night, Assistant City Attorney Mike Diedrich explained that as demolition of the Rapid Theater is completed, bids will be sought to tear down the AVCO Financial Services building.

During that time the Olsons will vacate their 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, Diedrich said.

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

However, Attorney Joe Butler also pleaded before the council for an additional payment to compensate the Olsons for costs of relocating the business.

Because federal funds were not involved in the taking, the city was not obligated under law to pay relocation costs and the Olsons accepted the court-ordered \$85,000 "compromise," Butler said. But he asserted the amount was an "injustice" because under law there was no way the Olsons could recoup costs of being forced to move their equipment to a new location.

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

He asked the council to arrive at some "reasonable" figure to help the Olsons move their operations.

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 Fuji Japanese restaurant, 1402 E. St. Patrick St., despite objections by the South Rapid Civic Association to issuing any new beer and liquor licenses in the area. Restaurateur Ramon Gimborys said he dropped his wine license and needed a high-point beer license so he could carry a brand of Japanese beer.

**Rejected** a proposal that organizations and their affiliates, such as the Disabled American Veterans and its subsidiaries, be limited in the number of off-premise lotteries they can hold under a single permit.

**Approved** a request by the DAV to place pull-tab lotteries at the Boothill and Robbinsdale Lounge, whereupon the council was told the DAV Auxiliary and the Trench Rats, an organization within the DAV, withdrew requests to place the pull-tab devices.

**Agreed** to issue park vendor licenses for Myrna Burnette at Sioux Park swimming pool and Roosevelt Park and for Keith Robinson and Lon Nally at Horace Mann pool and Robbinsdale pool. Burnette had asked to operate at Roosevelt and Sioux parks while Robinson and Nally sought to