

Panel suggests lots be used for leased parking

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Two downtown parking lots could be converted to leased parking for more than 100 cars by September, if the Rapid City Common Council adopts a resolution recommended by its Public Works Committee.

City traffic engineer Sharon Johnson Tuesday recommended that lots at Seventh and Main streets (behind American State Bank) and at the southwest corner of Mt. Rushmore Road and Main Street be converted to leased parking for downtown workers.

Costs would be about \$28,800, Johnson said. The lots would be operated by a card and gate system.

The Public Works Committee recommended a rate of \$15 per month per car for three or more months and \$20 per month for shorter periods.

The Seventh Street lot would provide 62 spaces; the Mt. Rushmore Road lot, 46.

The committee approved Johnson's recommendation but postponed action on another proposal to add meters to several streets and extend the downtown area's two-hour free parking district to the east.

The committee's recommendation

goes to the full council at its meeting Monday.

Johnson proposed metering Quincy and Kansas City streets between Ninth Street and West Boulevard and Ninth Street between Quincy and Kansas City.

She also recommended extending two-hour free parking along St. Joseph and Main streets to Third Street.

Alderman Jerry Shoener said the committee wants more time to study those proposals.

Johnson also recommended that the city lot at Sixth and Main streets remain three-hour and eight-hour free parking. That lot will be expanded when the city acquires the old Sears Warehouse and the B & B Towing building.

Part of that lot could become leased parking, Shoener said, if the first two leased lots are successful. The city lot on the north side of St. Joseph Street, between Fifth and Fourth streets, could also be converted to leased parking, according to Johnson's proposal.

The Common Council intends to buy property on the south side of St. Joseph Street, from Fifth Street to the city lot at Sixth and St. Joseph streets — land that could also be used for leased parking, Johnson said.