

Council acts on parking fines, sidewalk request

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Starting in July, overparking in metered spaces in Rapid City will be 400 percent more expensive.

The Common Council Monday raised the expired meter fine from 50 cents to \$2. The raise was part of a new ordinance that also allows police to immobilize cars owned by repeat parking violators.

Under the new regulation, any person with 10 or more unpaid parking tickets risks having a mechanical boot attached to the front wheel of his car. The boot prevents the wheel from turning.

The ordinance will go into effect in early July.

In other action Monday, the council rejected a recommendation from its Public Works Committee and voted 6 to 3 not to require residents of Nicklaus Court to build sidewalks.

A city ordinance requires sidewalks in new subdivisions, and in September 1983 the council adopted a five-year plan to require sidewalks on all city streets.

The council adopted that plan to make walking along city streets safer. But residents of Nicklaus Court have argued that sidewalks on the short cul-de-sac are unnecessary.

Ward 3 Alderman Gale Holbrook, who represents Nicklaus Court residents, called it "a special situation."

"We should review the whole sidewalk situation," he said. "There's no way you can generate enough speed in this little cul-de-sac to have a safety problem."

Ward 5 Alderman Jerry Shoener disagreed. "The bigger issue is to treat all households equally," he said. "If you're going to make exceptions, make them everywhere."

Shoener, Ward 4 Alderman Harold

Weiland and Ward 2 Alderman Norma Thomsen voted against the measure.

Also Monday, Airport Board Chairman Jim Bell reported that the city's share of the cost of the new airport terminal will probably be \$7.1 million, which is close to original projections.

The cost of the terminal itself will be \$8.4 million, Bell said. Aviation fuel taxes, federal airport improvement funds and other revenue sources will pay the balance.

But Bell said loading bridges, parking facilities and "tenant improvements" are not included in that figure.

He said the board is negotiating with airlines on paying for loading bridges.

"We may be back later, but we think we'll be successful," Bell said.