

# City to do a study on downtown parking

Dick Rebbeck  
Staff Writer

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Rapid City engineering and planning specialists will do their own downtown parking study.

Public Works Director Leonard Swanson told the city council's Public Works Committee Tuesday that downtown business people agree with city officials that a recent study by Walker Parking Consultants of Minneapolis revealed nothing that wasn't already known.

Asking the council members what they wanted done next, Swanson said, "We're willing to give it a shot."

To which the committee responded by approving a motion recommending city personnel make their own study of downtown parking needs and how they could be met.

"I agree with your thinking," Mayor Art LaCroix told the committee, adding, though, that it's not totally a responsibility of city government to solve parking problems. "It's also a responsibility of employers (to help provide parking for their employees)," he said.

The Walker report as well as surveys by city personnel indicate a significant

number of shoppers' parking slots are taken by people working in downtown offices and stores.

Swanson also said a report on prospective city hall sites would be ready for the committee's next meeting Sept. 13. A Chamber of Commerce City Hall Task Force will meet with the committee at that time.

The chamber group had asked the city to hire a private firm to evaluate possible locations for a new city hall. But city council members decided, in the wake of disappointment over the parking study, that city engineering, planning, legal and finance personnel could do the city hall evaluation.