Downtown redevelopment plans approved
Bob Fell
Staff Writer

The plans for redeveloping two blocks in downtown Rapid City were approved by the council’s Public Works Committee Tuesday.

All four bidders, each on a different tract of land, explained what they intend to do with the urban renewal property downtown and on a tract on East New York at East Boulevard, across from the new Safeway.

Jerry Gill Jr. described plans for a Gill’s Downtowner motel at Rushmore Road and Main Street. The eight-story facility will include a restaurant and lounge, swimming pool and offices on the first floor. The swimming pool ceiling will be two stories high with a viewing room on the second floor. The 120 rooms will be on the next six floors.

Dwight Guffey submitted plans for an American State Bank building at Seventh and Main.

Guffey’s plans show one of the existing buildings, formerly Mr. Steak, will be removed but the structure at 620, 618 and 616 Main will be restored for historical preservation and converted into a German food restaurant.

The plans for the East New York site call for building a supermarket by Oakland Developers, a local corporation.

Sale of the 25-foot strip next to the 1915 Firehouse Co. restaurant also will be recommended for approval by the city council.

The condition of railroad tracks throughout the city came in for strong criticism by First Ward Alderman Michael Madden. He expressed concern for public safety in his ward, where at least three derailments have occurred in the last two years.

Madden wants the Public Utilities Commission to force the railroads to repair their tracks and keep them in safe condition.