

City looking at acquiring more downtown parking

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Eminent domain will be used by Rapid City to acquire additional downtown parking.

The council's legal and finance committee Wednesday instructed City Atty. Ray Woodsend to prepare a resolution to start condemnation proceedings on property on the north side of the 500 block of Main. The resolution is to be presented to the council next Tuesday with a do pass recommendation.

The intent of the council is to acquire the property extending from the Sears store and warehouse west to Sixth Street for public parking as recommended by the downtown parking board.

Woodsend said the acquisition would be financed with revenue bonds to be retired from parking meter receipts and from a \$70,000 commitment by a small group of downtown businessmen.

He estimated the price for buildings and land at about \$500,000.

Alderman Robb Swanson said he feels that much parking is not needed, especially when Sears and Penney's will be leaving.

Woodsend replied that the building owners are going to keep these buildings rented and they will need the parking for any other businesses that move in.

Swanson was joined by Thomsen and Steinburg in voting against, but the motion passed 4 to 3.