

Council purchases meters for new parking lot

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The Rapid City Common Council got good prices on bids opened Monday for new parking meters.

But the council accepted the second low bid for 100 new meters. Duncan Industries submitted a base bid of \$6,016 plus \$150 for equipping 60 meters with slug detectors.

Duncan was the low qualifying bid because American Parking Meter Co.'s bid of \$5,695 was on a meter that does not entirely meet specifications. The third bid was from Don Harstad Co. of Minneapolis at \$6,150 base.

The contract was awarded to Duncan after all bids had been reviewed by the public works committee during a council recess. But Aldermen Mike Madden and DeWayne Yantes voted against.

Madden argued that Duncan was not the low bidder and Yantes argued the city should not use meters on the new parking lot at Sixth and St. Joe.

Yantes said he has been informed that about 60 per cent of the parking meter revenues and parking fines goes for administrative costs. Without the meters, he said, it would eliminate most of these costs. The meter maids could patrol the lot every two hours, he said.

To make up for revenue not taken in by the meters, he suggested increasing the fines for parking violations.

In a related action, the council continued action on a resolution that would establish the parking lot and on-street meter rates. The legal and finance committee had recommended a charge of 25 cents for two hours on the lot and a two-hour limit.

The committee also recommended eliminating pennies in the on-street meters and establishing a 5 cent charge for one-half hour and 10 cents per hour downtown.

The two-hour maximum parking downtown would remain and a proposal to permit merchants to give their patrons tokens they had purchased from the city is being studied.

The council wanted to give more study to the proposals.