

City may buy parking lots

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The Rapid City Council will be asked to authorize Mayor Art LaCroix to try to buy two properties for downtown parking lots.

And the public works committee will recommend turning down the offer to purchase two lots on Cameron Drive in the Sheridan Heights area.

The recommendation for the purchase of the downtown lots was made Tuesday morning by Roger Schneider, chairman of the Public Parking Board, who reported that appraisals are complete and his board still recommends the site at Sixth and St. Joe for a city-owned off-street parking lot.

LaCroix reported the corner lot formerly occupied by a Standard Oil service station is appraised at \$65,000 and the adjacent Park & Shop property has an appraised value of \$67,000.

Acquisition of the service station property would add about 56 parking spaces, according to Schneider.

On the Sheridan Heights property, the committee discussed the offer of Norbert J. "Bud" Degen to sell to the city two lots below a metering dam on Sheridan Heights. Degen claims the presence of the dam has made the sale of the lots impossible and wants the city to take the property off his hands.

Darrell Bishop, city drainage engineer, explained the Degen property was low ground when the metering dam was a stock dam. Improving the

stock dam as a metering dam has not endangered the property any more than it was before, he said. In fact, he said, he feels the metering dam has given some protection from storm drainage.

Bishop said the metering dam is not really a consideration but admitted the five-foot concrete pipe is because of the psychological effect on those below the dam. The main problem, he said is failure of the developer (Knecht Industries) to seed and mulch the top and slopes of the dam. He said he has been assured the seeding and mulching will be done this fall.

Bernita Loucks, who has opposed purchase of the Degen property, stated, "We can't bail everyone out that has a drainage problem."

While there was some bickering concerning past actions which might have indirectly set a policy precedent, the committee agreed with Mrs. Loucks.

In another policy area, the committee will recommend the city withdraw its financial assistance to developers in the purchase and installation of water main appurtenances, such as fire hydrants and related couplings. The policy will not extend to city participation in paying for extra size water main pipe for developments.

The committee also will recommend acceptance of a street right-of-way from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to permit construction of an un-named street on the east side of the USBR substation on Highway 44.

Bob Grimm of Grimm's Pump Service, said he is dedicating right-of-way for the other half of a street along the west side of his property and will construct a 32-foot-wide asphalt street.