

Recommendation made concerning parking lots

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The city-leased parking lots on Fifth between Kansas City and St. Joe will get a temporary oiled surface and informal appraisals will be made on several other downtown properties for public parking.

That is, if the city council accepts the recommendation of the public parking board and the legal and finance committee.

Roger Schneider, parking board chairman, told the legal and finance committee Thursday his board had considered four possibilities for resurfacing the Fifth Street lots when the new leases are signed by the city. The least costly solution is for city crews to blade the lots smooth and apply an oil coating, he said.

Bill Abernathy, public works director, had estimated the cost for the oiled surface at between \$800 and \$900. This compares with a cost of \$17,000 for a complete asphalt surface; \$15,00 for a less permanent bituminous coating; or \$13,400 for a "double-slurry" surface which would last for about two years, the length of the new lease.

While the oiled surface is not in compliance with city code for public parking lots, Mayor Don Barnett commented, "We'll just have to live with it. We don't want to make any big investment in a temporary thing."

Schneider also recommended that the council authorize appraisals on seven properties downtown to determine the feasibility of the city acquiring them for off-street parking. He had suggested that two outside independent appraisals be made with the idea of purchasing if the prices are right.

Charles Swander, however, objected and recommended the appraisals be made by City Assessor Chuck Cummings on an informal basis to determine cost effectiveness.

The committee bogged down in a hassle over city policy of reimbursing developers for installing water mains larger than the minimum eight-inch size normally required.

Vic Hughes, who is developing the Colonial Subdivision on the south side of the city, was directed by the public works department to install 12-inch pipe after he had already purchased six-inch pipe. The six-inch pipe had been approved on the plat which the council had approved.

A water system study, conducted by the firm of Francis-Meador-Gellhaus, Inc., later recommended that 12-inch pipe be installed in the area being developed by Hughes because plans also call for a new reservoir in that area.

Hughes complied with the change and had submitted a bill for the difference between the cost of the six-inch and 12-inch pipe, including labor.

The committee will recommend reimbursing Hughes for the difference in cost between the six-inch and 12-inch, but not for the labor, based on what the city would have paid at bid prices.

New travel regulations for city employees will come before the council Monday with a "do-pass" recommendation despite the objections of Robert Flittie and Earl Huntington. Huntington wanted more time to study the revised regulations, commenting that he feels travel has been "abused" by city employees. He said "there is too much promiscuous travel by city employees."