

City reduces parking fine

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With a prod from Mayor Don Barnett, the Rapid City Common Council Tuesday gave reluctant final approval to an ordinance changing the penalty for downtown overparking from \$5 to \$2.

Second reading passage came only after Barnett persuaded members of the council to reconsider a 4-3 vote by which the measure appeared to have been scuttled. Six affirmative votes are required for passage.

Alderman Al Wilson told his colleagues that by lowering the fine for violation of the two-hour downtown parking limit, the council "has neither solved the problem nor followed the recommendations of the police chief." And Alderman Harold Schmidt added, "It doesn't solve anything."

An obviously nettled Barnett snapped, "It sure does... My God, \$5 is so much worse than \$2."

A brief debate followed, before Alderman Robert Apa, who had cast one of the three negative votes, moved to reconsider. With passage of the ordinance of the second ballot, the mayor was instructed to expedite the drafting of a parking board ordinance for presenta-

tion to the council at its next meeting.

The council also, at Tuesday's continuation of its Monday night meeting, awarded three construction contracts on the recommendation of Public Works Director William Abernathy.

A \$91,000 contract was awarded to Utility Engineering Corp. for replacement of water mains in the downtown area; a \$71,000 contract was awarded to James E. Simon Construction Co. for continuation of Range Road to Stevens High School; and a \$296,000 contract was awarded to Hills Materials Co. for a series of dust control projects — hard-surfacing — on city streets.

The low bids had arrived at 9.6 to 19 per cent over the engineers' estimates. Abernathy said the overages were due primarily to current inflationary trends, and Barnett added that the projects were not likely to "get any cheaper" if they were rebid.

The bids originally were to have gone to the council's public works committee for further study. However, early approval, the mayor explained, would come up the start of work to the city's advantage.

In still other action Tuesday, the council:

- Approved a measure amending the job title of the city personnel officer to personnel and safety officer and amending the \$7,000 to \$11,000 salary range of the position to \$7,500 to \$11,500.
- Appointed Fred Whiteface as city planning director.
- Authorized Finance Officer Wes Richmond to advertise for bids for modification of police and fire department communications equipment.
- Authorized a five-man team to attend a police combat target-shooting match in Sioux Falls.
- Approved the installation of carpeting in a hallway at the Rapid City Police Department at a cost of \$513.
- Approved a \$613 change in the construction of the city's new central fire station.
- Awarded a \$14,300 contract to Dean Kurtz Construction Co. for repair work at the city water treatment plant.
- Authorized Airport Manager Glen Burdine to negotiate renewal of hangar lease agreements on a one-year basis rather than the current five-year basis.
- Appointed Dr. Streeter Shining and Robert Ewing to three-year terms on the library board, replacing James Kuehn and Curtis Ireland.
- Appointed Tom Walsh and Harold Weiland to three-year terms on the city planning commission, replacing Merle Gunderson and Ron Leighty.