

# Parking district, purchase of land to be recommended

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The Rapid City Public Parking Board will make several recommendations to the city council Monday, including the establishment of a public parking district for downtown off-street parking and making the first major purchase of land for a downtown lot.

The proposal for a public parking district is a revival of the effort two years ago which was dropped abruptly by the city council when threatened with a referendum. The atmosphere apparently has changed, however, and the city planning department, at the urging of Mayor Don Barnett, has come up with a proposal to proceed with the concept.

During the regular meeting of the parking board Thursday afternoon, Jerry Wright, city planner, reviewed the proposal made by THK Associates

in 1971 for an "interim" parking plan downtown which envisions about four parking lots be acquired and developed from revenues derived from assessments on a benefit basis against commercial property within the district.

The THK Associates proposed district would be from West Boulevard to Fourth Street between the alley north of Main and the alley south of Kansas City. These boundaries could change, however, depending upon just where the off-street parking lots are to be acquired.

City Atty. Ray Woodsend advised the board that any property acquired for off-street parking and financed from assessments from the district must be inside the district boundaries. Several potential lots considered by the board are outside the presently outlined boundaries.

The board approved the general con-

cept of establishing the parking district to fund off-street parking in the downtown area, but did not make any specific recommendations otherwise.

The board did approve a resolution recommending the city start immediately to acquire the property east of the Duhamel building on the north side of Main Street to Fifth Street for an off-street parking lot. Cost of acquisition was estimated at nearly \$364,000. Parking meter revenues would be used for this purchase.

The board also will recommend to the council that short-time parking meters be removed from the middle of the downtown blocks and that 15-minute meters be located only at the ends of each block and on each side of the alleys between Main and St. Joe from Fifth to Rushmore Road.

Also approved was a resolution urging the council to authorize Mayor Barnett to negotiate with Dodge Town (Milo Rypkema) for subleasing the old Dodge Town used car lot at Kansas City and Fifth. Woodsend informed the board that Dodge Town has paid the rent on that lot through the end of the year. The property is owned by United National Bank.

The board is recommending that the city sublease the lot for additional parking provided the bank is agreeable to a sublease from Dodge Town.

As another means for providing additional off-street parking during the upcoming shopping season, the board also will recommend the city investigate the possibility of leasing the property at Rushmore Road and Main which is the site of the new Hilton Motor Inn.

The board also reviewed the request for the city to administer and police parking at the county courthouse. While the idea of metering the lot was discussed, Arnold Jones, executive secretary for the county board, suggested that a test period of marking tires and posting a limited time zone be tried first.

After considerable discussion, the board agreed to have a committee composed of Jones, Woodsend, Lt. James Anderson of the police department and Dwight Guffey, board member, personally inspect the parking lot, observe what is taking place and come up with a positive recommendation.

Jones said he was not particularly agreeable to metering the lot but emphasized that something must be done to control the parking by those who are not conducting official business with the county.