

# City to study

## traffic, parking

3-9-71

The council's streets and utilities committee agreed to study the parking and traffic problems in the downtown area after hearing a request from businessmen during its regular meeting Tuesday.

Ben Blumenthal and Pete Geyerman appeared before the committee to urge some action to alleviate the shortage of parking space and to improve the flow of traffic.

Blumenthal called for enforcement of the two-hour parking limit at downtown meters and some action to eliminate the "meter pluggers," most of whom are employes, he said.

He said he and other businessmen downtown have gone as far as they can privately and now seek official action by the city.

The committee later was advised that last week Acting Mayor John Barnes had instructed the police department to enforce the two-hour limit downtown.

Geyerman suggested the city consider using some of the Parking Lot & Area Fund for constructing a ramp parking facility in the downtown area. He also suggested the city explore the possibility of leasing the old Black Hills Oldsmobile used car lot at Fifth and St. Joe for off-street parking.

Geyerman also recommended getting rid of the "scramble" traffic signals downtown and was supported by Duane Genzlinger, city traffic engineer, who agreed the city should consider either eliminating the scramble lights or modifying the system. Geyerman also asked the city to consider removing the 12-minute meters.

Committee Chairman Paul Ness instructed Genzlinger to study the proposals and make recommendations at a future meeting.

Also considered by the committee was the suggestion by Alderman Larry Lytle to increase the fine for parking meter violations and possibly to increase the fee in the downtown area to 10 cents for one hour of parking.