

Two special sessions held

By **BOB FELL**
Journal Staff Writer

It happened again! The Rapid City Common Council held another double-header special meeting Monday morning to take up a few items that came up at the last minute.

Last Monday, the council had called a special meeting to consider mobile home parks licenses but had to call a second special meeting to reaffirm its approval of a \$32,000 supplement to the Convention-Visitors Bureau budget for promotion of the civic center.

This time, council members were served notice of the first special meeting last Friday to take action on final reading of a \$42,522 supplemental appropriations ordinance and to approve the first rental payment to the Civic Center Plaza Corp.

After acting on these two items, Harold Schmidt said he had two matters which should be taken care of before the regular meeting next Monday.

City Atty. Ray Woodsend reminded the council that only those items listed

on the first notice could be acted on officially. Since the matters raised by Schmidt required official action, Mayor Art LaCroix sent out for another waiver of notice form on which the two items were listed on the agenda.

One was naming the Rev. Stu Holsing to replace the Rev. Hewes Phillips as a member of the pornography committee. Phillips resigned because he will be unable to attend most of the meeting this summer.

The other item was authorization for the mayor to enter into a lease agreement for rental of temporary office space for the city assessor's office at 914½ Main.

Between the two meetings, Howard Lewis, owner of the former Elks Building and Downtown Club, asked informally what he has to do to re-establish his Downtown Club at 508 Sixth. He said the Eagles Club, which holds the liquor licenses formerly held by Lewis, has moved out of the building.

Lewis was advised to take his prob-

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lem to the legal and finance committee at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

In the first special session, the supplemental appropriations ordinance included another \$20,000 donation from A. E. Dahl for the Fine Arts Center. The money is to be used for adding to the sound and lighting system, but must be formally appropriated before it can be spent.

Actually, the main reason for the special session was to authorize the first quarterly lease payment of \$225,000 to the civic center corporation's trustee, the First National Bank of the Black Hills. Under terms of the contract between the corporation and the city, signed several months ago, the city is to make like regular quarterly payments to the corporation starting June 30 and on or before the end of each calendar quarter thereafter until the \$8.5 million in corporate bonds is amortized.

In the second special session, Schmidt and Darline Gerlach explained that because the county courthouse is being remodeled, the city has been ask-

ed to relocate its assessor's office temporarily. Mrs. Gerlach explained that the county is planning an addition to the building and that the city assessor can return when there is more space.

The city presently is paying \$3,000 a year to the county and the temporary office space will come to \$2,400 a year but apparently does not include utilities.

Schmidt admonished his colleagues that "it is time we start looking at something to replace that monstrosity (city hall) next door. It is time we started pulling our city departments together."

The council and committees are meeting in the dining room at the new fire station while state auditors have taken over the old conference room next to the mayor's office in city hall.

LaCroix commented that because the city is obligated to provide courtroom and court office space for the magistrate, there is no more space. "it's all used up." He urged the council to consider seriously not adding any more to city government operations.