

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Rapid City, South Dakota

February 26, 2009

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rapid City was held at the City/School Administration Center in Rapid City, South Dakota on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Alan Hanks and the following Alderpersons: Sam Kooiker, Karen Gundersen Olson, Ron Kroeger, Aaron Costello, Deb Hadcock, Lloyd LaCroix, Patti Martinson, Ron Weifenbach, Bill Okrepkie and Malcom Chapman; and the following Alderpersons arrived during the course of the meeting: None; and the following were absent: None.

Staff members present included Finance Officer Jim Preston, City Attorney Jason Green, Assistant City Attorney Joel Landeen, Growth Management Director Marcia Elkins, Public Works Director Robert Ellis, Community Planning Coordinator Monica Heller, Lieutenant James Johns and Administrative Coordinator Amber Sitts.

Ordinance No. 5479 (No. LF021109-27) An Ordinance Implementing the Recommendations of the Downtown Revitalization Task Force and Downtown Parking Committee by Adopting Parking Regulations for Certain Areas of Rapid City by Amending Chapter 10.44 of the Rapid City Municipal Code. Motion was made by Kooiker and seconded that Ordinance No. 5479 be placed upon its first reading and the title was fully and distinctly read.

John Brewer thanked the Council for their time spent on the parking process. He explained that the Committee has brought forward a plan that maximizes the consensus reached in public hearings and committee meetings, and he outlined the dates and discussion topics of previous meetings. The goal of the Downtown Parking Plan is to meet the current parking needs for stakeholders and generate future revenues for future parking solutions, such as parking ramps. He gave a presentation explaining the proposed parking plan and concluded with the Downtown Parking Committee's recommendation that the Council approve Ordinance 5479, appoint a Downtown Parking Manager, and appoint a Long Term Parking Solutions Committee.

Roger Frye, 626 6th Street, stated that if meters are added to side streets they should be added to Main and St. Joseph Street also. Kurt Whitesell, 817 9th Street, asked who would be the primary benefactor of revenue. He pointed out that the members of the committee were not subjected to the 10-hour meters, and he requested that the meters in front of his business are changed to 2-hour meters. Mayor Hanks clarified that the committee making the recommendations consisted of about 40 people, and the last review committee that was appointed looked at and made some modifications to the recommendations from the larger committee. Kelley Tumas, Motions Dancewear, mentioned that her customers were disappointed when she decided to move her business downtown because of the parking situation. She pointed out that the proposed 4-hour meters in front of her building will allow downtown employees to park there all day. Charles Ray, 703 Quincy Street, was concerned that the 10-hour meters in front of his business on 7th Street will be occupied by downtown employees during the day, so he would like to keep the 2-hour meters that are there now. He felt that the meters should be solar powered and mentioned that they could be set to accept credit or debit cards as well. Mr. Ray suggested that they put meters on the current free spaces which would create more revenue, and he asked the Council to consider amending the Ordinance to place 2-hour meters in front of his building. Mayor Hanks reminded everyone that ordinances require two readings, so any vote tonight is not a final vote. Estelle Wessel, 824 Columbus, stated that there are a few unmetered parking spaces in front of her apartment building but said it is rare for any those stalls to be available. She said she would like to have 2-hour meters around

her building so that there is a chance that the homeowners or their visitors can park there during the day. Steve Malone, 230 Main Street, explained that he just purchased a building downtown. His business is retail, and he does not want metered parking in front of it. He also indicated that the parking on the 3rd Street side of his business has a variance, so the proposed 4-hour meters cannot be placed there. Jim Krusman, 3rd Street, thanked the committee for the alterations that they made to the original plan by changing the meters near his business to 4-hour meters but requested that they change them to 2-hour meters. He stated that the parking stalls in front of his business turn over 27 times per day on average. He also pointed out that there are areas around his business with no curb. Julie Frye, 626 6th Street, asked what kept St. Joseph and Main Streets from getting parking meters. She stated that her business needs to have people coming and going, so she asked that 2-hour unmetered areas remain in front of her business. Lee Gyger, 613 Main Street, suggested that the ordinance allow for future installation of meters in parking structures. He also mentioned the need to allow long vehicles to park on the curb in order to be out of moving traffic. He stated that the graduated fines are excessive and encouraged reducing the total fine amounts and time period or putting meters on Main and St. Joseph Streets. He also questioned the appropriateness of parking enforcement on Saturdays. Brian Vulcan, 517 7th Street, said he is in favor of the plan as presented stating that this is a good opportunity to build more parking ramps and a well-executed plan is better than no plan. Dan Sefner said we need to start somewhere to get revenue to build a ramp, and we cannot please everyone. We need to leave room for changes to the plan, but it needs to move forward. Fred Thurston said he owns three buildings downtown, and the plan is good for two but not good for one. He said this plan is a start, and he encouraged the Council to approve the plan allowing flexibility for future adjustments. Julie Frye spoke for a second time and stated that in the past time restrictions have been changed at the request of individual businesses. She is happy with the current parking situation. Kurt Whitesell spoke for a second time and stated that metering Main and St. Joseph Streets would increase proposed revenue by 51%. Motion was made by Chapman, seconded and carried to close the public comment.

Responding to a question from Kroeger, Mr. Brewer clarified that the parking situation on Main and St. Joseph Street would remain as it is now. He also stated that the Business Improvement District is a tool used in many communities, and the committee has spoken with 50% of people in the district. They have signed a document supporting the plan. He said that they have put aside scheduled money to help people in the district with parking enhancement and said future solutions should come from the proposed long range parking committee. Kroeger pointed out that the main goal is to gain revenue so that parking can be provided for everyone downtown. Responding to a question from Olson, Heller stated that the proposed meters can accept coins or prepaid parking cards, and there is no restriction against feeding the meters. LaCroix stated that he is in favor of the ordinance. He understands the concern for areas with no curb or gutter and clarified that the reason for no meters on Main and St. Joseph Street was due to concern for business when the mall opened. He stated that some work does need to be done on the Ordinance, but there are still two more meetings for it to be read.

Amendment motion was made by Hadcock and seconded to add 2-hour meters to Main Street, St. Joseph Street and side streets that are proposed as unmetered. Hadcock pointed out that the 1991 Downtown Master Plan states that the core areas should have the highest amount of paid parking. Weifenbach expressed his disappointment in the amendment motion as he felt there was more to be discussed. He heard good arguments to be fair and had difficulty accepting the 4-hour and 10-hour meters on the outskirts of the downtown area. Responding to a question from Weifenbach, Heller clarified that the ordinance could be written so that meters cannot be fed, but the only way to enforce this would be to have the tires marked. Weifenbach stated that treating Main and St. Joseph Street the same as other outlying businesses makes sense. Chapman suggested that Alderman Hadcock withdraw her amendment motion. Amendment motion was withdrawn by Hadcock. Weifenbach said businesses drive the downtown area and would like to make sure there is a parking authority available to provide a quick turnaround for businesses with parking needs. He suggested placing 2-hour meters in all areas, putting a

parking authority into place and considering metering some of the ramps. He said that not metering Main and St. Joseph and creating hardships in other areas with 4 and 10-hour meters would not be the right thing to do. Chapman said he previously asked that a small committee be formed to go through concerns and then come to Council for discussion. He disagreed with trying to change the plan on the fly. He had concerns and questions regarding the plan and did not understand the logic of parking permits for homeowners versus renters. He expressed support for putting meters on Main and St. Joseph and the idea of funding with 2012, and he will do research before the second reading. Olson stated that it is a good idea to appoint a long-term solution committee. She understood other concerns, but if all of the meters are changed to 2-hour meters, the plan will go back to square one. She stated her support for the plan and will not support changing it in a major way. LaCroix expressed that parking has come a long way and said that this is a start. His goal is to work with people if the parking is not working for them. Martinson expressed support for the plan but said all streets should be treated equally. Weifenbach said the 10-hour and some 4-hour meters are not appropriate and added that the plan needs to be kept fair for all businesses. Okrepkie said the original objective of this process was to revitalize downtown, provide the ability for quick turnaround and open up parking in the core area for customers. The stakeholders should make decisions on what should be done. The few that object to the plan attend the meetings, but we do not see the many others who agree. The committee came forward with a plan, and Okrepkie said he will support their efforts. Chapman stated his support for the recommendations but pointed out that the 1991 Downtown Master Plan states that the spaces most accessible and convenient should have the highest rental fee. He would like to work with others on changes to the plan before the second reading. Green clarified that an ordinance enacted by the Council can be amended by the Council at a later date through a new ordinance. Hadcock said her vision is to expand the downtown area further to the east and west and unify the area. She said that in several large cities their core areas have meters, so she believes that Main and St. Joseph should have meters installed.

Amendment motion was made by Hadcock and seconded to add 2-hour parking meters to Main Street, St. Joseph Street and the side streets, including the cross sections of 5th, 6th, and 7th Streets. LaCroix pointed out that these streets were metered in the past, but the meters were removed to compete with the mall. He said we want people to come and go and is not in support of the motion. Chapman clarified that if the amendment is passed it will go to the Legal and Finance meeting amended where additional recommendations could be made. He also clarified that if they want to add a parking manager and long-term committee it would need to be an amendment to the ordinance. Olson said she feels this is a good strategy that will benefit the community long term. Okrepkie reiterated that he is in support of the committee recommendation. Weifenbach stated that the revenue from metering Main and St. Joseph Streets is necessary. Upon roll call vote being taken, the following voted AYE: Kooiker, Olson, Kroeger, Costello, Hadcock, Martinson, Weifenbach, and Chapman; NO: LaCroix and Chapman. Motion carried.

Responding to a question from Kooiker, Lieutenant Johns stated that the meters can be programmed to our specifications regarding the free 15 minute period. Kooiker also asked if it would be wise to have tags for City Hall similar to those planned for Dakota Middle School. Mayor Hanks pointed out that is not necessary as the City Hall parking lot will have more available spaces than it does now. Responding to a question from Chapman, Mayor Hanks said that credit card transactions on meters require a transmittal method and there are high fees for the service. Johns clarified that they reviewed solar powered meters, but that technology was not offered with meters that allow prepaid cards and push buttons.

Amendment motion was made by Weifenbach and seconded to have tires marked throughout the downtown area. Mayor Hanks clarified that enforcement staff would need to be doubled to do that as it is very time consuming. Weifenbach withdrew his amendment motion. Okrepkie said he would like Weifenbach to reconsider the motion to avoid having people feed the meters.

Amendment motion was made by Okrepkie to have the tires marked. Motion died for lack of a second. Hadcock stated that we want people to plug meters to gain revenue in order to reach the goal of building

a ramp faster. Responding to a question from Weifenbach, Heller said the thought behind changing meters from 2-hours to 4-hours along 6th Street was to allow people to park for longer periods of time depending on their needs.

Amendment motion was made by Weifenbach to change all 10-hour meters to 2-hour meters. Motion died for lack of a second. Responding to a question from Weifenbach, Johns clarified that the time increments were selected because they are the most used increments. Weifenbach suggested an amendment to change the meters to 3-hours and said the current plan creates a parking problem for business owners. LaCroix wanted to gather additional information on the properties with no curb and gutter, so Mayor Hanks clarified that additional recommendations can be made at the Legal and Finance level. Olson stated that we have something that is substantive. Chapman said he wanted to address the addition of a parking manager but would like to have more conversations before making an amendment. Mayor Hanks clarified that there would not be an additional FTE for this position. Kooiker asked the Council to consider the parking along Quincy Street near the library and suggested that the meters are changed to 4-hour meters to encourage people to spend more time in the library. Costello pointed out that there are 2-hour meters within one half to one block of the 10-hour metered parking areas.

Upon vote being taken on the original motion as amended, motion carried.

Motion was made by Kooiker and seconded to (No. LF021109-28) continue the Resolution Establishing the Fees, Locations and Duration of Meters to be installed in the City's Meter Parking Zone Pursuant to Section 10.44.020 of the Rapid City Municipal Code to the Legal and Finance Committee meeting on March 11, 2009. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

ATTEST:

Finance Officer

(SEAL)

Mayor