

LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Rapid City, South Dakota
✓December 28, 2004

A Legal and Finance Committee meeting was held at the City/School Administration Center in Rapid City, South Dakota, on Wednesday, December 28, 2004, at 3:15 p.m.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering the roll call: Tom Johnson, Tom Murphy, Karen Gunderson Olson, Ron Kroeger, and Malcom Chapman. Absent: None.

(NOTE: For sake of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. Also, all referenced documents are on file with the Master Agenda.)

Approve Minutes of December 15, 2004

Motion was made by Chapman, seconded by Murphy, and carried to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2004, Legal and Finance Committee.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made by Murphy, seconded by Kroeger, and carried to adopt the agenda.

General Public Comment

A time for members of the public to discuss or express concerns to the Committee on any issue, not limited to items on the agenda. Action will not be taken at the meeting on any issue not on the agenda, except by placement on the agenda by unanimous vote of the Aldermen present.

SPECIAL ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (citizen requested to be placed on agenda)

✓ Cheryl Uthe said she owns a business at 7 Main Street. The present City ordinance sets forth two hour parking from 2nd Street west. She is requesting two hour parking going east from 2nd Street. She said workers in the area park in front of her business and stay there all day. Therefore, there is no parking for customers in front of her business. Kroeger moved to request the City Attorney's office to draft an ordinance amendment to include two hour parking from 2nd Street east on Main Street. Second by Chapman. Motion carried. ***Place item on consent calendar***

No. LF122804-01 - Susana Geliga, the Lakota language teacher at Central High School, explained to the Committee the Lakota-Austrian Youth Exchange Program. This exchange program will be taking place in the summer of 2005. The purpose of the exchange program is to come to a better understanding of the different cultures and to promote cultural awareness. The participating students will stay with host families.

April 29, 2005
L & F Committee

Jean French
City Council/Public Works Committee
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At issue is the recent designation of limited 2-hour parking on the south side of Main Street in the block directly west of East Blvd., and how this is affecting the businesses located at 17 Main Street and 19 Main Street in particular.

There are seven businesses at this site, having been located here from 5 to 15 years, respectively, involving approximately 15 personnel. The parking lot behind the building accommodates 10-12 vehicles – varying some with pickup versus sedan. Two business owners and a minimum of one employee **park consistently and directly in front of our building**, necessarily for a good deal more than two hours at a time.

In addition, three of these businesses have occasion to have client meetings for extended periods of time.

This is my understanding of the events, which led up to this limited parking designation:

Several months ago, I received a call from a representative of the property management company which handles the building where the used furniture store is located on the east end of the block. (I am acquainted with the representative through other business matters.) He told me they were going to lose the renter because people parked in front of her business and what did I suggest be don.

I told him we were aware of a problem in the block, our people had seen this also, but when discussed amongst us, we all agreed the people causing the problem weren't very courteous, but it was open parking, so we simply adjusted.

I told the representative the problem at the time was the bank employees from the bank south across our alley. For some months, six to eight of those employees would park in this block for eight hours a day, a number of them in front of the used furniture store. My suggestion for a simple solution for the used furniture lady to contact the bank and request that the employees have some respect for the businesses in this block and refrain from the long-term parking.

The representative asked me if I thought two-hour parking was the answer – I said, don't do that. That would cause great inconvenience for all the business in the block, when the used furniture store parking issue could be solved so simply.

Incidentally, someone must have contacted the bank because some weeks ago, no one, other than, business owners or employees parks in this block for extended times. Actually, the two-hour parking created a new problem for the used furniture store lady, because now anyone can legally park in her spots for two hours.

I have been doing a simple survey of the parking in the block for several days, particularly as it relates to our businesses (seven spaces plus). There are two vehicles parked since 7:45 a.m. for extended time in front of our building (both business owners at 19 Main Street). Three of the businesses have had clients parked short-term (one-half hour to one hour) in front of 19 Main Street between 9:30 and 10:30. One person stopped for 15 minutes at 11:00 a.m. This is a typical day. The only long-term parking that relates to our building is the business owners and one-to-two employees for varying lengths of time, but always more than two hours. A look up and down the street at those times or any given time indicates that all of the businesses in this have very similar parking traffic. My point being, the majority of the businesses in this block DID NOT have a parking problem, until now.

I would hope that decision-makers drive by several times for several days in order to evaluate the parking.

(Also, I would have you be aware that at about 10:45 today a meter maid walked by and there were two vehicles (very typical) in the whole block for tire marking; seems like a mighty unnecessary trip for her.)

If the used furniture store business has parking concerns, I would suggest that be dealt with individually for her business, thereby not inadvertently affecting the space of the majority of the other business owners in this block.

One more question I have – is it customary for a decision such as this two-hour parking limit to be made in a business area without notification or discussion with the businesses that will be affected?

Thank you, Jean, for taking the time to consider my request for rescinding the decision to limit this parking. If I can be of further assistance in addressing this issue, please contact me. I would be more than happy to discuss this with you.

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