



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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VETO OF RESOLUTION

TO: James F. Preston, Finance Officer and
Members of the Rapid City Council

FROM: Mayor Jerry Munson

DATE: December 24, 2001

RE: Expenditure for Parking Pad - 2402 Fifth Street

Dear Mr. Preston and Members of the City Council:

I hereby veto the Council's action taken by motion of the Council on December 17, 2001, approving the expenditure for a parking pad at 2402 Fifth Street. While I, as Mayor, believe that I should do all I can to avoid a hardship for any citizen, I also cannot, in good conscience, ignore the implications of this action.

Besides being poor fiscal policy, this action to pay a private individual for loss of on street parking is not authorized by state law. If the Council should choose to override this veto, they will be hard pressed to deny similar requests for the use of tax dollars to fund improvements on private property. The upcoming loss of on-street parking for some businesses on 5th Street is a perfect example.

The Council's action should not be approved because:

- 1) The South Dakota Legislature has not authorized municipalities to aid private individuals through the expenditure of public funds, unless a city has damaged a citizen's property.



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- 2) In addition to this action being a misappropriation of public tax dollars, it is an arbitrary action establishing a bad policy precedent for benefiting individual citizens to the detriment of the greater good of all citizens of our community.

For these reasons, I would ask that the City Council provide a careful reconsideration of their action to grant this expenditure and allow the veto to stand.

Since South Dakota law allows a Mayor only 10 days from the date of passage of an ordinance to exercise the right to veto, I may supplement these objections with more information when the Council meets on December 27, 2001.

I respectfully request that you concur with my action.

Respectfully submitted,


Jerry Munson, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota