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# 200-block committee scuttled

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A committee of business owners, which was to review the city's plan to relocate the 29 businesses on the 200 block of Main Street, has been scuttled.

That's because City Manager John Radin decided last week to kill the committee, which would have consisted of five business owners, since, he said, it is no longer required by law.

The committee would have reviewed the plan and made recommendations to the City Council about how best to accommodate businesses being pushed out because of the city's redevelopment efforts on the block.

The council will decide at its Jan. 14 meeting if it wants to accept the relocation plan and push ahead with moving the businesses, buying the property on the block, and then building a post office and a commercial development there.

The relocation plan was drawn up by a consultant early last year. It outlines the city's legal responsibilities to the displaced businesses.

Business owners will get a

chance to comment on the plan Jan. 14 when the council holds a public hearing on it. The plan must be adopted before any land can be purchased by the city.

Radin said this morning that the relocation committee, first thought to be required by law, is not necessary, according to

to get this thing done by the 14th."

The city manager has until August to deliver a razed block to postal officials so they can begin building their new post office there.

Several business owners sounded indifferent about the scuttling of the committee.

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the city's redevelopment attorney.

Radin, who is coordinating the city's \$5 million redevelopment efforts on that downtown block, said he met Dec. 27 with San Mateo redevelopment specialist Mike Nave to discuss the matter.

Radin said of the committee, "It was really a waste of time anyway. The time element is too tight. I've already got some land sales in line and we need

"I don't know if it would have made any difference," said Dick Wong, owner of the Daylite Market, the block's biggest tenant.

"Personally, I don't think we would have benefited much from it," said Mark Burns, owner of Star Surplus and Outfitting.

Burns was to have served on the committee, along with Pete Sanchez, owner of several

downtown restaurants and bars; Dana Sales, whose father owns Fred's Barber Shop; Tom Mills, manager of Goodyear Tire; and Dennis O'Rourke, of Freedom Tire.

Burns, who has been in business on the block since 1963, said he still isn't sure if he will move the operation or sell it to the city.

In other redevelopment news, it appears the city will have to add another significant expenditure to its relocation effort by buying out a third business on the 200 block. The city already expects to buy the Daylite Market, the block's largest tenant, and a small restaurant because the owners say neither business can afford to move and stay in operation.

It was also learned today that the board of directors at P.J. Freiermuth Co. Sheet Metal, which is the block's oldest tenant at 103 years, is strongly considering selling out to the city rather than relocating.

The cost of moving is reportedly too high for that business, and not worth the expense. Company officials are meeting with an attorney tomorrow to discuss the matter.