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City's parking moratorium will die

SANTA CRUZ — The city's four-year-old emergency parking moratorium ordinance will lapse Jan. 1.

Originally, the ordinance was brought in to give the City Council time to solve the problem of dwindling parking spaces and growing business needs in 1978.

Since insufficient solutions to the parking needs have been found, every six months in recent years City Councils renew the emergency ordinance.

That's the way it was until Sep-

tember. Three councilmen held out and since the emergency ordinance needs five votes, it will end at the first of the year.

The ordinance requires each business provide enough parking spaces for its needs, or pay \$24 per space each month to the city.

Mayor Michael Rotkin complained at Tuesday's session that some businesses have the spaces but are willing to pay the \$24 deficiency fee in order to rent the spaces out for \$75 a month.

He and Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt have served on a committee which is trying to come up with solutions to the parking problem, but instead came out with expressions of frustration.

"Every solution we came up with, we were told it couldn't be done for either legal or other reasons," Wormhoudt said.

A suggestion from Rotkin that the deficiency tax be increased to \$75 received no support.