

And D&RGW bridge coming down

Railroad asks \$322,000 for right of way

by Ray James
Mail Staff Writer

City Attorney Al Sulzenfuss told the city council Monday night of preliminary negotiations with the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad for the portion of the right of way of abandoned Monarch Branch spur line located within the city.

The attorney, who, along with Mayor Ed Touber, met with railroad officials and attorneys in Denver on Friday, Jan. 18, said the railroad wants \$332,000 for the 1.9 mile, 24 acre stretch of land but suggested sale of smaller portions or trades could be possible.

The council also learned that the D&RGW will insist the railroad bridge which served the line will be disassembled. There had been an

attempt by a local citizens group to save the old bridge, but the railroad will not allow that to happen.

The railroad also will not sell or donate any property on the north side of the river to the city or other parties. This includes the depot building.

Touber said the railroad also expressed an interest in buying the F Street bridge from the city or possibly trading for it. They also expressed interest in the land around Pasquale Springs, which is owned by the city.

He added the railroad seemed interested in closing off any casual access to railroad property. The mayor added the railroad said they wanted to remain "good neighbors" and would consider Salida's interest in the negotiations.

Touber told the council the matter

came down to deciding what the city needed rather than what it desired. No date was set for continued negotiations on the property.

THE COUNCIL rejected a request from Clifton Jones to pay off \$8,100 owed the city for additional EQRs at his Windmill Restaurant. Jones wanted to give the city \$500 down and 24 monthly installments of \$316.

Council members noted Jones and his partners had owed the city the money for more than a year because he failed to report the actual seating capacity at the restaurant.

Jones worked out an arrangement with the city to pay the full amount before a planned May 1985 reopening but offered the alternative and hoped to reopen in February.

After the sometimes heated

discussion over the plan, the council voted to keep the original agreement with Jones and require payment in full before reopening. The council did decide to consider offering a time payment plan to other customers if the cost of providing service was high.

In other matters, the council:

✓ Took beginning action to vacate a street, Rainbow Ridge Drive near U.S. 50 on the city's southside. The street had been deeded to the city in 1979 as a part of a development plan.

The property has since been sold, to Wendell Hare, who asked the city to return the land because the development plans have been postponed. An ordinance to return the land will be considered at the next council meeting.