

BY BRIAN DAVIS

A repeated request from the Oak Bay Beach Hotel for an expansion of its parking facilities was turned down rather bluntly by Oak Bay council Monday night.

The waterfront hotel on Beach Drive wanted to demolish the house it owns at 1193 Beach, besides its property, to construct a parking lot for 23 additional vehicles.

Alderman Peter Bunn jumped to the occasion attacking the hotel for trying again. "It seems like yesterday that we were doing battle with

BEACH HOTEL:

Firm NO to parking

this same problem," noted Bunn.

The facts are still the same, nothing has changed, he added. To "drag this through the committees," Bunn claimed, "would be a misuse of council's time."

Ald. Susan Brice added that if nothing new had developed in the past year (since the previous request from the hotel)

then there was no need to review the application.

The only thing that *may* have changed, interjected Mayor Doug Watts, is the public perception. But, he concluded, "I don't expect it has."

The addition parking, Ald. Ed Flanagan proposed, is not needed for the hotel's room guests as the present situation is adequate to serve that

need, but is wanted to provide on-site parking for special functions at the hotel.

Instead of referring the application to committee, which is the usual procedure, council gave it a firm 'no.' (Ald. Gordon Holms withdrew from the debate and vote because of a conflict of interest--his accounting firm looks after the hotel's books.)★