



Bid comes in under estimate; Cornerstone bid decision on April 22

By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

Street paving and storm drainage in the Sage Addition in west Imperial, including a two-block section of West 12th St., moved a step closer Monday night.

Members of the Imperial city council awarded the bid to Werner Construction, Inc. of Hastings. Werner Construction won the project over two other bidders, Paulsen Inc., of Cozad and Cement Products, Inc. of North Platte.

Werner's bid of \$1,434,381.20 came in 19.5 percent below the engineers' estimate of \$1,781,134.50 completed by Miller & Associates of Kearney.

Paulsen's bid came in at \$1,684,402 with Cement Products' bid the high of the three at \$1,796,723.

With the awarding of the bid, preparations by the city for the project will begin right away.

Several residents of the addition attended Monday night's meeting, asking about access to their properties during the project.

Engineer Kent Cordes said Werner will do what it can to keep access to driveways. He noted the concrete streets will have to cure for at least seven days.

Several days will also be needed to grind and seal expansion joints before traffic will be allowed, he said.

Some of those details will be worked out in pre-construction meetings, he said. It's possible they may pave one side of the 40-foot streets first so work can be completed on one side before starting on the other.

The concrete paving will be six-inches thick, with new storm sewer installed under the new streets. West 12th will have an eight-inch thickness.

Cornerstone bid on hold

Council members delayed making a decision on the awarding of the bid for infrastructure on the Cornerstone development until their next meeting April 22.

They delayed their decision to see whether a housing project proposed for the development wins approval of state grant funds April 19.

As a result, they moved their April 15 meeting back one week to April 22.

Cordes said they requested the base bid for the infrastructure and an alternate bid for paving Second Street from Holland to Orsa Streets.

In both cases, Van Kirk Sand & Gravel of Sutton submitted the low bids.

Their base bid for infrastructure which specified a gravel street totalled \$463,045.25. Adding the paving pushed the bid to \$729,874.57.

Cement Products submitted the next lowest bid for both phases.

BSB Construction, Inc. of Curtis and Midlands Contracting, Inc., of Kearney submitted bids for

the infrastructure only. Those bids were both higher than the Van Kirk and Cement Products bids.

Cordes said all bidders were told the bid award could be delayed until the city heard word on the housing project.

If the housing project is a go, then the street paving will be accepted as part of the bid.

If the housing project doesn't develop, then council members still have the latitude to accept one or both portions of the bid.

Fire hall design presented

Fire Chief Nick Schultz presented a preliminary drawing and cost estimate for a new 9,600 square-foot fire barn on the city lot on Broadway where the old grade school once stood.

Schultz said the estimated cost will be around \$970,000. He said that figure was slightly higher than believed because the cost of a sprinkler system wasn't in the first estimate and, secondly, because of a sharp increase in building costs.

Schultz said they've gone as far as they can until they hire an engineer to develop specs in preparation for bidding.

He said they have been in contact with both Miller & Associates and Engineering International from McCook.

They are wanting to get a fixed-cost bid for the engineering versus a percentage on the cost of the project.

Other council action Monday

- Approved a contract with County Attorney Arlan Wine to prosecute cases governed by Imperial city code and ordinances.
- Heard the monthly financial report and updates on the Imperial Manor, Parkview and Heights from administrator Sandra Palmer.
- Heard a report from City Attorney Josh Wendell on the delay in rule changes that would have required more council oversight on the three senior living facilities.
- Approved a memorandum of understanding supporting the work of REAP (the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project) run by the Center for Rural Affairs in obtaining grant funds to assist in small and entrepreneur business development.