

Extension on Heginbotham Library restoration approved

Written by Chris Lee

A request for an extension for work on the Heginbotham Library Exterior Restoration project was discussed at the Tuesday, Oct. 6 City Council meeting.

Tom Balding was present to listen to the council's ruling on the project. Balding requested an extension due to unforeseen problems he encountered while working on the library. The weather also played a factor in the extension request.

The request was for 45 working days after the scheduled completion date of Nov. 26, and \$6,000 compensation was also requested.

Orville Tonsing said the work Balding has done so far is very good and the extension is fair.

Ray Bailey said he looked at the building and said Balding has done more work than expected. He suggested leaving the completion date open.

"Tom could've slapped paint on it and walked away from the job but he's been very conscientious to restore everything back to the original state," Bailey said.

Council members agreed Balding is doing the job right. They said he is actually fixing problems and not just covering them up. Fixing the problems instead of simply covering them up will save any work on down the road.

The council accepted the request and voted to recommend to the library board to allow Balding to have until May 1, 2010 to finish the project. They also accepted the \$6,000 compensation request.

First draft of budget presented

Council members were presented with the first draft of the 2010 budget. City Clerk Kathy Olofson said she still needs to get September figures together to complete the budget.

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In other business, Bruce Rosenbach was present to ask for a special permit for the Pheasants Forever banquet. He said they usually have the event in February but would like to see it happen on the opening night of pheasant season.

With the new events center completed, he would like to see it held there so they could get a larger turnout. Council members voted to allow the request.

Reports of city officials

City Supt. Mark Brown said electrical work at the new event center was recently wrapped up, and wiring on the new fuel farm at the airport is finished. Brown said everything should be finalized around Oct. 15-16.

Police Chief Phil Biersdorfer said Holyoke P.D. has been working on a couple of runaway cases as well as a theft case. He also said they conducted some early morning patrols on S. Interocean Ave. after concern about traffic issues was raised during the Sept. 15 council meeting.

In other business Oct. 6, council members:

—accepted airport liability renewal quote.

—approved liquor license renewal for Kwik Stop.

—accepted travel requests for Tillie Fisbeck and Olofson.