

Mike Smith Construction to build new city garage

Written by April Peregoy

Mike Smith Construction has landed the job of constructing the new storage garage that will be built just east of the City of Holyoke offices to replace the old garage damaged during high winds on Nov. 6, 2008. Smith was chosen after Holyoke City Council members examined bids from three competitive companies vying for the job at the Holyoke City Council meeting Tuesday, March 3. Smith, as well as two representatives from Landmark Construction of Sterling, were at the meeting to try to persuade council members in their decision. The other bid entered was from Yost Construction, also of Sterling.

John Stoner made his case for Landmark, saying the company had worked with City Supt. Mark Brown and CIRSA to come up with the best bid possible. Even though the bid presented by Landmark was higher than the others, Stoner said it is all-encompassing and would not go up at all during completion of the job. He added Landmark would also allow the city to help choose subcontractors for the project, and assured the board the majority of them would be local.

Despite this, when the time came for the council to vote on the bids, it was Smith's that was accepted with a 5-2 majority. Council members voting for Smith said they chose his bid because it is the lowest and because it is a local business.

A price on the bid was not included in the motion, as the council still has some additions and negotiations to make regarding the final plans for the building. However, insurance will cover \$282,825 of the project, and the council vowed not to go over that amount.

Bids were also accepted from Weathercraft Co. to repair the roofs damaged by the wind on the old building. Two sections of roof on the building, including the old office space and east storage space, were damaged during the storm and need replaced.

Another section over the old generator space was voluntarily torn off during the debris removal. When a muffler on the old generator broke down, the city opted to remove it through the roof. The repairs on this section of roof will not be covered by insurance.

Total reroofing of all three sections will cost \$25,098.20. The insurance company will cover \$12,562 of this expense, with the city picking up the remaining \$12,536 tab.

Supt., Police Chief not amused by skate park antics

"I'm getting very discouraged with the skate park," said Brown after reporting that city employees recently discovered vulgar graffiti and a broken lock to the park's fiberglass box that controls the sprinklers. The incident is only one of many recent activities that have been reported by the police and city over the last few months.

Police Chief Phil Biersdorfer said he talked with two high school kids who said they do not know who the culprits are. The chief is warning all high school kids not to repeat the destruction if they want the park to still be available in the future.

Uniforms considered

Another bid was sent to Holyoke City Council for consideration on Tuesday. This one involved uniforms and was sent by AlSCO. For \$8 a week, the company is offering to provide

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uniforms and laundering services for city employees. However, if the uniforms are worn out within two years, it is the city's responsibility to replace them.

Brown said he likes the idea of having employees in uniforms because it makes them more identifiable. Yet, he did not like the provision about having to replace the uniforms if they wear out before two years, noting with the type of work the employees do, it's hard to make a pair of jeans last even a year.

City Council members chose to table the issue of uniforms to allow themselves time to think of other possible options.

March 8-14 declared Girl Scout Week

Mayor David Nygaard officially proclaimed the week of March 8-14 as Girl Scout Week.

Thursday, March 12 marks the 97th anniversary of Girl Scouts, which was founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Ga. Since then it has become the largest organization for girls in the world with more than 3.5 million current Girl Scout members nationwide.

It is considered to be the leading authority and advocate for girls, inspiring millions of girls and women with the highest ideals of courage, confidence and character. Girl Scouts provides leadership experiences that build self-confidence, creative decision-making skills and teamwork through which girls develop real-world leadership abilities that will last a lifetime.

Girl Scouts of Colorado is a statewide council serving 38,000 girls, ages 5-17, across the state. Throughout the week, all Girl Scouts will be celebrating 97 years of an American tradition of teaching girls an innovative program to help them succeed in the 21st century.

Other business

In other business, city council members:

—allowed Brown to include an additional option for the Avgas tank at the airport fuel farm, which was accidentally left out of the original Garsite bid. The option is a \$3,500 sidemount ladder and inspection platform.

—approved a travel request for Mike Roll to attend a "Roadway Work Zone Construction Safety" class.

—retroactively approved a donation request to Holyoke Music Parents Association for five one-day swim passes.

—were notified by State Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg that the House Bill calling for the suspension of state payments to the Fire and Police Pension Association for two years has been postponed indefinitely.