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## St. Charles tabs planner to oversee First St. project

By Josh Stockinger  
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Terry Heffron is a land planner by trade, but in St. Charles, you can consider him the First Street redevelopment project's "go-to guy."

The city council Monday hired Heffron to be a liaison of sorts for anyone with stakes in the \$105 million undertaking.

"He basically will be the communication, go-to guy that will be the one construction contact between businesses, residents and contractors," Mayor Don DeWitte said.

A St. Charles resident and former engineer with the Kane County Division of Transportation, Heffron provided similar services when the city reconstructed the Main Street bridge in the late 1990s and is currently working on the Wilson Street bridge project in Batavia.

The decision to hire Heffron in St. Charles comes after several businesses along First Street complained of struggling financially as the six-block reconstruction project unfolds.

The city always planned to bring a consultant on board, DeWitte said, but wanted to wait until much of the infrastructure work was complete first. Heffron will help address the needs of businesses, residents and contractors.

"As a trained engineer, his knowledge is outstanding," DeWitte said. "He'll be a great addition to the team."

The city will pay Heffron about \$20,000, City Administrator Brian Townsend said.

The council wants the Downtown St. Charles Partnership, a nonprofit organization, to kick in half of the cost.

Heffron is scheduled to start Wednesday. His contract could be reviewed and possibly extended in a year, although there currently are no plans to do so, officials said.

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