

1st Street issues to go before City Council

By Lynne Senne

On Monday night, the Government Services Committee approved a \$93,447 cost to go before the City Council for a final vote. The nearly \$100,000 is a total for Phase 1 of the 1st Street project that has taken place from Illinois Street south, and some of that cost has already been budgeted.

According to a memo provided to the committee by City Engineer Greg Chismark, there were elements in the original contract that were omitted "for coordination purposes," and those deducted approximately \$44,000 from the cost.

"We received a proposal from Power (Construction on behalf of 1st Street LLC) and compared our original cost estimate," Chismark said. "There were

some items in (their proposal) that were not in our original estimate, and, likewise, we have some items that were not in their original proposal.

"We made deductions to make sure we were comparing apples to apples."

Other work, like that proposed for storm sewers on Illinois Street at a cost of \$20,465, have been "discussed and partially approved," Chismark stated in the memo. There are also unspecified new elements that contribute to this total cost by \$28,595 and have already been completed without committee or City Council approval.

"The decision to allow this work to proceed ahead of...approval was based on the project schedule," Chismark stated. "Staff is comfortable with documentation submitted and pro-

pose to waive the bid process and accept the proposal submitted by Power.

Chismark told the committee some of this cost had previously been approved, but the proposal needed to be revisited due to the changes.

An additional \$197,798 was also approved for Power for the public water main and storm sewer work in Phase 2 of the project, which is from Illinois Street north. Again, some adjustments were made to the original contract, including an estimated \$5,275 that was removed. In the second contract, an additional \$38,520 was eliminated, which included roughly \$12,000 for extra work as a result of "utility conflicts."

"We ran into a number of conflicts with other utilities," Chismark said, saying electric ducts and gas mains were the main troublemakers. "The additional crew time it took to make those changes, and the extra time and materials (represent the added cost)."

Just over \$7,800 is part of the streetscape budget, and \$86,260 is part of the plaza budget. Of the latter amount, almost \$11,000 is again due to extra work from utility conflicts.

The contingency fund will assume the \$59,907 cost for new work, most of which is complete, according to Chismark's memo. Again, the work was allowed to progress without formal approval to maintain the schedule of the project. However, these costs are not finalized, Chismark cautions in the memo, but are estimates that may

change as final quantities are developed for the parking deck.

The third agenda item regarding 1st Street was in regard to a change order in the amount of \$49,378.42. The first portion of the change order is due to the delay of the Illinois Street intersection reconstruction, which has been postponed until next spring. The delay was the result of other delays on the construction of the Blue Goose building as well as new information regarding the parking deck.

Chismark's memo to the committee explains changes in the phasing of the project have led to further bituminous paving, requiring 120 tons of incidental bituminous paving to be required, at a cost of \$150 per ton. A decision was also made to cover the paving with concrete, and change the material crews will use to stripe the finished roadway. The striping change, from a thermoplastic to an epoxy striping, led to a deduction of almost \$2,000.

The overall increase to the original contracted amount is only 2 percent, Chismark said.

Another 1st Street matter that was not on the agenda because it came up after the drafts had been sent out was the street scape plan. Staff recommended approval of again waiving the bid process and enabling Power to complete the work in order to keep work moving forward.

These items will appear on a City Council agenda for final approval.

Lauzen declares intent for Congressional seat

By Patrick Deasey

By throwing his hat into the ring Wednesday, Sept. 19, Aurora State Senator Chris Lauzen fulfilled expectations by becoming the third Republican seeking the party nomination for the 14th Congressional district seat.



described himself as "the only proven and reliable traditional conservative running in the Republican primary," labeling himself as pro-constitution, pro-traditional family and anti-tax.

Lauzen hopes to mobilize "an all-volunteer army of grassroots leaders," to do political battle against "the power of money and clout," which he plans on recruiting during his three-