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Hiawatha Streetscape Project Agreement Approved

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha City Commission has approved an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for phase III of the downtown streetscape project.

Under the agreement approved by the Commission Monday evening, KDOT will pay 80 percent of the construction cost, with the city responsible for the remaining 20 percent plus engineering costs and any utility adjustments.

City Administrator Mike Nichols says as part of a new requirement, the city will have to pay its share of the project cost to KDOT 50 days after the bid letting is held. Nichols said KDOT will handle the bid letting, and then send the bids to the city for approval.

And the city continues its search for additional water wells. Nichols informed Commissioners that six locations have been identified on property adjacent to the north well field where test drilling will take place. Additional wells are needed for a planned water treatment plant.

The city entered into a consent agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment last year to address the ongoing problem of high nitrate levels in its water system.

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