

Falls City Main Street Committee Ready for Construction to Start

On the evening when the Falls City, City Council, approved moving forward with phase two construction of the Main Street project, the Falls City Main Street Committee hosted a reception at the Falls City Elks Lodge.

A short business meeting was part of the evening, during which time Main Street members approved the Executive Committee for the next two years. Diana Orton will serve as president, Tony Brunette first vice president, Kristi Gerweck second vice president, and Jerry Oliver treasurer.

Adam Morris, who has been the Main Street president the past two years, will be the past president. The Falls City Main Street organization was formed officially in January of 2010, and Morris says the last two years has involved laying the groundwork for reconstruction of Falls City's downtown area. (play audio :44)

Construction on the first phase of the Main Street project, on the south side of 17th from Stone to Harlan, could begin as early as mid-May, after the Falls City, City Council, approved a contract with AHRS Construction to be the contractor for the project. The Main Street Committee has received a \$333,000 Community Development Block Grant to pay for most of the cost of the initial phase, although bids came in considerably higher than anticipated. Morris says the committee is applying for grants to help fund future phases of the project – which will eventually include the entire downtown area on Harlan, Stone, and Chase Streets, from 14th to 20th. Morris says the changes won't happen overnight. (play audio :22)

The work includes redoing sidewalks, installing "bump-outs" at intersections, and replacing the traffic lights on Stone Street with four-way stop signs.