

Falls City Seeking Downtown Revitalization Grant

(KTNC) -- Falls City is laying the groundwork to apply for another \$350,000 Downtown Revitalization Grant. The City Council took steps Tuesday night to begin the application process.

Kevin Burnison with the Southeast Nebraska Development District explained that the Department of Economic Development requires the city to go through the Phase One planning process before receiving the funds.

The city of Falls City and the Main Street Committee completed Phase One planning for a revitalization grant in 2010. That resulted in a 71-page revitalization plan, using a \$30,000 grant with a 25-percent local match. Burnison proposed a less costly option. He suggests the city seek a \$5,000 grant, with a 25-percent local match, to have Main Street and SENDD staff do the phase one planning.

Burnison says they met with the Chamber of Commerce and downtown property owners last week. He says while the application can't specify what they'd do with the money, one option is to use it to use it to rehab storefronts in downtown Falls City, similar to what Auburn did recently with its Downtown Revitalization Grant.

The council approved a motion to direct the Main Street and SENDD staff to gather information for a grant application. The pre-application is due by the end of March and Burnison suggested holding a public hearing on the application on March 17.