Former city hall building to be leased

(KLZA)--The former Falls City, city hall building will be leased to a local business.

On a 4-3 vote, City Council members during their November 20th meeting authorized the City Attorney to draft a lease agreement between the City and ClowFit, LLC, to rent the building at 1820 Towle Street. The vote also authorized Mayor Jerry Oliver to sign the agreement.

Chris Clow, co-owner of the business, told they Council that they have outgrown their current facility in the 1700 block of Stone Street. Clow said the building offers many opportunities for his business to help provide services for the community.

Clow explained he and co-owner Jessica Strecker want to include a walking track, rock climbing wall, and expand their current classes to go along with about \$80,000 of workout equipment.

The building, originally constructed as a National Guard Armory, has been sitting empty since 2012. The city gutted the interior of the building, formerly housing city offices, the council chambers and police station.

Clow said a line-of-credit has been secured to make initial improvements.

Under the agreement, ClowFit will pay the City \$1 per-year rent, plus \$1,000 monthly. As the company make capital improvements to the building, they could request funds from those monthly payments to pay for the work. This would work similarly to a revolving loan fund program.

Clow said the business would be renamed the Falls City Wellness Center. He says he would like to see Falls City become a regional hub for wellness.

Voting in favor of the agreement were Council members Don Ferguson, Charlie Bentley, Kirby Robidoux and Mike Dougherty. Casting nay votes were Council members Jim Wisdom, Judy Murphy and Derek Leyden.