

Seneca Council Approves Condemnation Ordinance

(KMZA)---The Seneca City Council has taken the next step in the process of acquiring property needed for the extension of Branch Street by eminent domain.

Following a closed-door session Wednesday evening, the Council approved an ordinance authorizing and providing for the acquisition by condemnation of about five-thousand square feet of property located south of the Seneca Motel, which is owned by Richard Ayers of Casper, Wyoming..

The council also voted to authorize Mayor Joe Mitchell to sign the petition to be filed with the court upon publication of the ordinance.

A district judge will then rule on the validity of the request and three appraisers will be appointed to determine the land's value.

The action follows unsuccessful attempts by the city to negotiate a land swap for the tract with Ayers.

In addition to Ayer's property, the project will require the city to acquire land owned by Valentino's Restaurant, Seneca Bowl and USD 115.

The street extension, which is being partly funded by a two million grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation, will provide access to commercial development property owned by the city on the former golf course.

In a related matter, the council accepted a bid from Suther Building Supply of Seneca to draw up plans and specifications at a cost of 14-hundred dollars for an addition to the city's maintenance shop.

The addition is needed because the existing Quonset building at the city shop location is to be removed for the Branch Street extension.

Once the plans and specifications are prepared, bids will be sought for the building addition.

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