

CITY OF OSAWATOMIE



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L. Mark Govea, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

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Funding uncertainties delay final phase of Main Street improvement project

Proposed funding measures at the state and federal levels are delaying the start of the final phase of the Main Street improvement project.

Osawatomie city officials hoped to already be turning dirt on the multi-block, street improvement project this month. However, the project stalled earlier this spring as officials waited to hear when they could advertise for proposals.

Osawatomie City Manager Don Cawby said the city learned last week the project is moving forward, but there were additional requirements it must meet first before it can get back on track. Cawby said he was hesitant to provide any timelines given the current unpredictability of funding at the state and national levels.

"We hope to be able to start the project as early as this fall, but, if necessary, we will bid the project over the winter and start first thing next spring," he said. "These delays have been entirely out of our hands, and no one is more frustrated than the city council and staff."

Because project timelines have changed, Cawby said it could affect in which order the improvements are made. However, that remains unknown until the city can advertise for project proposals.

A large chunk of project funding – approximately \$400,000 – was awarded to the city earlier this year through the state's Community Development Block Grant program. Because the grant funds are critical to the project's completion, city officials said it is imperative all government funding requirements are met to avoid jeopardizing financing.

The project, which will upgrade portions of Main Street - from Seventh-12th streets - is the final phase of the Main Street enhancement plan. Improvements include fresh pavement, on-street parking on the north side of each block along Main, the replacement of all existing driveways to the city's rights-of-way, new sidewalks on both sides of the street, and new storm sewers to improve drainage along Main.

The project is estimated at approximately \$2.4 million, which will be funded by an estimated \$500,000 in proceeds from a special Miami County road and bridge sales tax, bonds and CDBG funding from the state.