

KANAWHA COUNTY

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Nitro votes to begin streetscaping improvements

by Mary Childress, For the Daily Mail

NITRO, W.Va. -- Nitro City Council accepted a bid from Baker Engineering to develop a streetscape and pedestrian master plan at a total cost of \$72,700.

Dave Casebolt, chairman of the Streetscape Committee, said the city's Business Enhancement Committee decided to concentrate first on Bank Street from 20th to 22nd streets, all of 21st Street, Ridenour Lake and the city's gateways.

"The funds will be designated as \$38,200 for Streetscape and the Pedestrian Master Plan and \$34,200 for the Streetscape design," he said. "The total cost will come from our contingency funds, \$356,000 held at Peoples Federal Credit Union."

Casebolt said the city originally applied for two federal grants to pay for the projects but did not receive them.

"It was at Baker's suggestion that we put our comprehensive plan on hold for the time being and concentrate on our Streetscape and Pedestrian Master Plan," he said. "Work on the projects should begin in the spring of 2011.

"This streetscape plan will show potential business investors that we're investing in our city," Casebolt continued. "And it should increase the city's chances of receiving more streetscape grants in the future."

In other business, Mayor Rusty Casto suggested the city put out bids for new or used sidewalk sweepers, especially with the new streetscape plans coming to fruition.

In a personnel-related matter, City Attorney Richie Robb met with the Civil Service Commission concerning one city employee who is now doing 75 percent additional duties on his or her job.