

November 8, 2010

Nitro to spend \$38,000 for streetscape project

By [Aran Jenkins](#), Charleston Gazette

NITRO, W.Va. -- Nitro City Council members will pay almost \$40,000 to Baker Engineering for a streetscape planning and design project.

Council members decided pay the firm \$38,200 for the project, which includes Bank Street from 20th Street to 22nd Street and all of 21st Street, Ridenour Lake and downtown.

Councilman Dave Casebolt announced at Monday's regular meeting that while Nitro did not qualify for federal grant funding for the project, he felt it was still best for the city to move forward with the plan.

The \$38,200 falls short of the proposed \$57,000 the city would have spent in matching funds if it had won the federal grant.

"If we are going to move this city forward, this is a great opportunity," Councilman Jim McKay said.

Council members also agreed to pay Baker \$34,500 incrementally for the Nitro Pedestrian and Streetscape Plan, which will outline the design of all future development for the city for the next 25 years.

"The face of Nitro is about to change," Casebolt said after the meeting.

In other business, Attorney Richie Robb discussed several city employee complaints that were addressed at a recent Civil Service Commission meeting.

According to Robb, one case involved an individual who lodged a complaint after failing to receive a \$500 raise that was given to other full-time city employee. The employee did not receive the raise because the position was classified as a part-time.

However, Robb said the Civil Service Commission recommended that the raise be awarded on the grounds that the job would now be considered a full-time position and that the position should be publicly advertised and hired out properly.

Council members agreed to follow the recommendations and pay the \$500 raise while allowing the ordinance committee to review the personnel handbook for job descriptions.