Construction to begin in early 2013 for apartments

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SENECA — Construction of a new 48-unit, age-restricted apartment complex near Lake Keowee will begin early next year, a spokesman for project's developer said Tuesday.

Seneca City Council members approved rezoning and annexation requests for the property paving the way for construction to begin.

Phil Ellen, a consultant with Olympia Construction in Albertville, Wyo., said he and city officials are working on the final plans for the project.

He said he expects construction to begin in early 2013 with the first residents moving in by the end of the year.

The council approved second and final reading of ordinances recommended by the city's Planning Commission for annexation of the property into the city and zoning the property RM-8, which would allow multi-family dwellings.

The first reading was approved by the council Nov. 13. City Administrator Greg Dietterick said he was asking the council to approve the requests at Tuesday's special-called meeting because he did not want to delay construction.

Ellen said the complex will be restricted to residents 55 and above. It will include one and two-bedroom apartments with a community center, wellness visits and a walking track near the lake.

He said Olympia has about 4,000 similar units around the country and typically have a two-year waiting list.

Ellen added that local residents have already called seeking to get on the waiting list for the Seneca complex. No waiting list currently exists, and Ellen said no applications for apartments will be taken until the project is 80 to 90 percent completed, which will likely be next fall.

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