

Council OKs \$2.5 million for Peace Center fixes

By Ron Barnett
STAFF WRITER

Greenville City Council has approved paying the \$2.5 million it had pledged as a match toward the \$21.5 million renovation of the Peace Center for the Performing Arts and surrounding area.

The money, which is for the public areas around the center, such as the amphitheater, plaza and public restrooms, had been designated for release when the Peace Center raised enough in private funds toward the project, City Manager John Castile said.

The work is expected to be completed by late September, he said.

Mark Hammond, owner of Larkin's on the River, spoke in support of the city's participation in the project, despite the difficulties the construction has caused for his customers in getting to the restaurant.

"It hasn't been as bad as we thought," he told the council. "On the flip side, it's taken longer than any of us anticipated."

As of Monday, two-way traffic is being allowed on Japanese Dogwood Lane, making it possible to drive to the restaurant, he said.