

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Jazz on the Alley to expand footprint

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Jazz on the Alley will be expanding its presence in downtown Seneca.

Riley Johnson, who coordinates events for the city, said Wednesday businesses have been asking for Jazz on the Alley to expand its footprint beyond its venue on Ram Cat Alley, where musicians perform and food is available for big crowds that jam the street every Thursday from April through October.

Arts on the Alley, at 123 N. Townville St., and Ye Olde Sandwich Shoppe, at 124 N. Townville St., will be among the businesses that would benefit from the expansion of Jazz, Johnson said.

Seneca City Council approved an ordinance in title only during its meeting Tuesday night to begin the process.

City attorney Mike Smith said the ordinance he'll bring back to council for second and final reading, when completed, would change the definition of Jazz on the Alley to include Ram Cat and Townville Street.

Before a vote was taken on first reading, councilman Ronnie O'Kelly asked whether businesses were on board with the idea.

"We've talked to them, and they're all excited about it," Johnson said. "It's one thing they've requested, and I said I'd bring it to council."

City administrator Greg Dietterick said infrastructure has to be put

on the corner, including power, to make it work.

"This (ordinance) will allow us to at least expand it when we have the infrastructure in place," Dietterick said. "We'll be able to close (the street) like we do with Jazz on the Alley."

Johnson said the changes being worked on will be put in place for the 2016 Jazz season.

Tonight's event gets underway at 6:30 p.m. and features Sonic Bacon, a group whose music is billed as a fusion of jazz, rock and meaty blues.

Johnson brainstormed the idea for Jazz on the Alley more than five years ago, and it has grown in popularity since its inception.

carlos@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6684

Follow on Twitter @cgnewsupstate