# Pickens paves way for sidewalk work

## Contract awarded for West Main improvements; project to begin soon

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PICKENS — Residents will soon see work start on sidewalk improvements along West Main Street in downtown Pickens.

Pickens City Council has voted to award a contract to Little Mountain Builders, which submitted the lowest bid and is based out of Maiden, N.C., to do the sidewalk safety and beautification work, City Administrator Katherine Brackett said.

She said the project is part of an ongoing effort to improve the look of downtown with the goal of attracting more people and businesses to the area.

"It's the first time we've done anything I guess in five years downtown," Brackett said.

"We need to help our businesses, and I think at least starting with safe sidewalks and a more appealing Main Street is just the first of many things we need to do," she said.

The city awarded a contract of about $163,000 to Little Mountain, Brackett said.

She said about $121,000 is coming from C-Fund money and said the city is paying around $42,000 to do beautification work that the C-Fund money won't pay for, $30,000 of which is from hospitality tax money and the rest from the general fund.

The C-Fund committee approved up to $132,000, Brackett said, and she said by the time engineering is added in, the city will likely use the rest of that C-Fund money.

Improvements will go along West Main from Pendleton Street and Ann Street to Catherine Street.

The C-Fund money will be used for complete rehabilitation of the sidewalks, including new curb, gutter and sidewalk, Brackett said.

Brackett said the project will bring that stretch of West Main up to current federal standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act by adding handicap parking and van access along the street.

Beautification work will include adding bulb-outs that jut out into parking spots where landscaping can be done later, putting in new street lights, putting the power lines for those street lights underground and doing heavy conduit under the sidewalk to have power for festivals and future growth.

Brackett said the project should start in about 30 days or less and said the full contract will be for 90 days.

This is just the start of improvements downtown, according to Brackett.

"I hope next to add signs, like way finding signs that will have business names and block indicators," she said.