

Council OKs \$19K for repairs at museum

BY NORM CANNADA
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SENECA — After being closed since summer, Seneca's Lunney Museum may reopen in time for the Christmas season.

Seneca City Council approved a \$19,000 bid Tuesday night for Advanced Electrical Services in Seneca to replace and rewire the house on West South 1st Street that is home to the museum.

The vote was contingent on the availability of funds in the city's Hotel and Accommodations Tax fund.

While no date has been set for work to begin, city administrator Scott Moulder said after the meeting the work should be completed in time for the museum to have

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Seneca's Lunney Museum has been closed to the public until further notice after electrical issues were discovered. City officials have put the project out for bid, but no timetable has been set for the reopening of the museum.

MUSEUM: Officials hope to reopen in time for Christmas

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an event there during the Christmas season.

"I can't identify at this point in time when the museum will be back open," Moulder said. "We still have to go through a preconstruction meeting with the contractor, there'll be permits that they will actually pull, agreements to be signed. There's still some administrative process to be conducted, but we hope that that work would begin in the next few weeks and have it open for a Christmas celebration."

The \$19,000 bid was less than half of the other bid presented at the meeting. When asked by Councilman W.C. Honeycutt Jr. what the difference in the two bids was, Moulder told the council Advanced Electrical Services planned to "fish" the wires through the walls of the house to avoid having to cut through the walls and then repair those walls. Moulder said fishing the wires is less expensive, but it will also better "preserve some of

the original architecture during construction."

"We did verify that if they came across a situation where they could not fish, that price does include the actual cutting and repairing of it as well," he added.

The museum has been closed since mid-summer, when problems with the wiring were discovered during the installation of the museum's security system.

Museum director Nick McKinney said at the time the museum was closed the air conditioning unit was not tied to the older wiring and was still running, adding that none of the items in the museum were "at risk of being damaged."

"It's an old house, and there's going to be problems," said McKinney, who was named museum director July 1. "We're going to try to fix them and solve them as best we can and make it a place the community can be proud of."

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