

## City will apply for \$10.7 million grant

By Jeanne Davant

Manitou Springs will partner with Colorado Springs and El Paso County to seek a federal grant to improve the "no man's land" area east of town and complete Phase 5B of the Manitou Avenue improvements plan.

Planning Director Dan Folke said Colorado Springs officials approached the city about participating in the grant application, which originally was planned to do improvements from 31st Street west to the Highway 24 overpass.

"We decided to throw in 5B too," Folke said, because it is a shovel-ready project that could be completed while the rest of the improvements are designed.

The project would include rebuilding the Colorado-Manitou Avenue segment, undergrounding utilities, replacing the Columbia Road bridge, streetscaping and adding benches and lighting.

The entire project would cost \$15 million, Folke said. Colorado Springs, El Paso County and the Colorado Department of Transportation would contribute \$500,000 each in matching funds; Colorado Springs Utilities would pledge \$532,000. Manitou's share of the matching funds would include \$584,000 the city already is scheduled to receive for completing Phase 5B, plus another \$50,000 in Pikes Peak Rural Transit Authority funds.

"We're spending \$50,000 more but getting a lot more," Folke said. "We get 5B (done) out of money we've already budgeted, (and) we could basically get the east end of town done."

Folke cautioned that bidding for the TIGER II funds would be very competitive.

"The Colorado Springs engineer has already prepared us for a partial award," Folke said. "Then we will have to figure out how we want to proceed."

Council members were pleased with the idea and unanimously approved Manitou's participation in the grant application.

"I'm very excited we're thinking outside of Manitou," Carpenter said.

### Council also...

- Passed on first reading an ordinance amending the dangerous animals section of the city code. The new ordinance authorizes the municipal court to order a dangerous animal to be humanely destroyed at the owner's cost if it is deemed necessary to protect public safety. The ordinance will come up for second and final reading and a public hearing on Aug. 17.

- Appointed Tom Lundgren to the Planning Commission.

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