Downtown nodes to cost $540,000

Building seven more full corner nodes in downtown Rapid City and an eighth one in a scaled-down version will cost nearly $540,000.

The Common Council opened bids from three contractors Tuesday for the second phase of the beautification project that could start by June 1.

Stanley Johnson Concrete Contractors Inc., of Rapid City was the apparent low bidder with a base offer of $449,613. Options to install four shelters and four directories of the downtown area will add another $89,000 to the project.

The council referred the bids for study and could award the contract at its meeting Monday, said Public Works Director Leonard Swanson.

Landscape architect Randy Fisher of TSP West, the firm which designed the beautification project, was “very pleased” with the bids. He said they came in lower than engineering estimates.

The first phase, completed a year ago, cost $465,000. The next phase includes about $200,000 to install new overhead traffic signals on Main and St. Joseph streets at the intersections of Sixth and Seventh streets, Fisher said.

Other bidders and their base offers were Brablec Construction Inc. — $475,000 plus $84,000 in alternates, and MAC Construction Co. Inc. — $469,800 plus $84,400 in alternates.

Included in the bids is about $50,000 of work for sidewalk basements to be assessed to property owners, Fisher said.

The scaled-down node is at the Plummer Piano and Organ corner (Seventh and St. Joseph). Glenn Plummer argued earlier that he made extensive sidewalk improvements not long ago and did not want to be assessed for more work needed to install the nodes. If his attitude changes, an alternate on Johnson’s bid said the full node can be installed for $41,640.

Bids show Plummer would pay $4,845 for underground work for a full node.

The city is financing the beautification project with urban renewal funds.