

# Civic center work may begin this week

By **BOB FELL**

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The general contractor for the construction of the new civic center complex in Rapid City could be moving dirt at the site this week. Issuance of a notice to proceed was authorized Monday morning by the Civic Center Plaza Corporation board of directors after the board was informed that all contracts and other legal documents were in order.

The plaza corporation board also voted to increase its size, seated Alderman Mike Madden as a new member and changed the regular meeting day. The board also endorsed the idea of a civic center board, created by the city council, to handle administration of the facility, and a clerk of the works for on-site, full-time inspection during construction.

Both of the latter actions require official action by the city council and probably will come up for consideration during the regular meeting Monday night. The council also is expected to authorize issuance of its notice to proceed on the construction at Monday night's meeting.

Former Mayor Don Barnett, president of the plaza corporation board, recommended increasing the size of the board from seven to nine members so he could remain and permit Mayor Art LaCroix to become a member. Madden, who had just been seated as

quest for the council to allocate \$30,000 from the civic center fund to supplement the budget of the Convention-Visitor's Bureau for the remainder of the year, which will be presented to the council Monday night.

Nick Didier, chairman of the C-VB, explained that the bureau is in need of additional financing if it is to start bidding on conventions for the civic center. He said that to get the larger conventions, efforts have to be made several years in advance.

The C-VB, which is normally financed through assessments of businesses who are members of the chamber of commerce, needs more money to prepare a "facilities guide" and update the promotional slide presentation as well as other related expenses, he said.

He reported that bids for a large convention in 1979, a mineralogical group with a potential of 8,000 delegates, are being made next month and Rapid City plans to compete.

Since the plaza corporation cannot spend any of the bond proceeds for anything but construction, it will require action from the council to supplement the C-VB budget. City Atty. Ray Woodsend said the city can allocate funds for promotion through its contractual arrangement with the plaza corporation and under the provision in the city ordinance. The city ordinance earmarks certain city sales tax revenues for the "maintenance, upkeep and promotion" of the civic center.

But LaCroix pointed out the request will be coming to the council "cold" without having gone through committee.

Woodsend and Ken Heisterkamp, legal counsel for the corporation, reported that estimates on the amount to be realized from the investment of a portion of the bond proceeds has shrunk to about \$400,000. It had been planned to realize about \$500,000 or more from long-term investments but the amount available after "front-end" payments have been made to contractors is less than had been anticipated.

Reason for the heavy front-end payment is the need to order materials, particularly structural steel, well in advance to be sure of delivery.

Manufactured items also will have to be placed on order now and paid for when they arrive.

In another action, the plaza corporation board approved the first change order on the facility amounting to an increase of \$12,000 in the general contractors contract. The change is for using porcelain enamel panels on the roof and walls instead of baked-on or polyvinyl coating.

The porcelain enamel is a permanent surface and will not require the future maintenance of the other type panels, explained Dick Robinson, architect with The Spitznagel Partners in charge of the TSP-West office in Rapid City.

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the council's representative replacing Robert Apa, said he felt the membership should be increased only to eight and the board agreed.

The board authorized sending out notices of the intended change in the by-laws and the proposal will be voted on at the next regular meeting of the board. The board also voted to invite LaCroix to fill the new chair if and when the by-laws are changed.

The board agreed to move its regular meetings to the second and fourth Mondays at 7 a.m., alternating with council meetings. Aside from the long day for council members and city employees who are on the corporation board, it was felt that actions taken by the board could then be funneled through committee before being sent to the council.

A case in point was the board's re-