

# City Council hears brief report on Rialto request for TIF money

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City Council members heard a brief report on a request for \$54,971 in Tax Increment Financing Zone funds from local attorney Tom Beasley Tuesday night before tabling the matter until TIF Zone Board Chairman Joe B. Montez can explain the project.

Beasley said Montez had to be out of town Tuesday and he had asked the attorney to explain the request from the Hall-Rialto Preservation Association for money to pay for work on the outside of the historic Rialto Theater.

A public hearing has been set for next month and Montez is expected to be at that session to explain the project. A letter from Montez to City Manager Ford Patton outlined where the money was to be spent.

Patton said the project called for further improvements to the exterior of the building. Some restoration work had been done some time ago on the facade of the theater but the project had not been completed. The city manager said he thought the money requested could pay for much of the work necessary to finish the exterior restoration.

After that Patton explained that the city's community center, in what used to be the home of Beeville's First National Bank, also is located within the TIF Zone and it would qualify for some spending of that money. He said the funds would not be necessary for a planned water blast of the exterior of that building but could be used later for any number of improvements or operation there.

Work is almost complete on

the center and councilmen had hoped to see the outside cleaned up to match the work done on the inside. Councilmen have been told that the center will be one of the nicest public buildings in Bee County when the work is completed.

Councilmen also took no action on accepting a \$21,275 Law Enforcement grant from federal Homeland Security Program Funds because some local officials believed the city does not need some of the equipment that would be purchased by the grant and they were concerned that the city would have to come up with the money later to maintain the equipment.

However, they did vote to accept a \$55,180 grant from the same source to spend on upgrading radio communica-

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