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By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader A contractor was chosen for a large part of the Light Park reconstruction project during the city commission's Tuesday evening meeting. Abbott Construction was selected to bring the project to completion – with conditions.

The park and sidewalk project consists of the Light Park Pavilion slab, multipurpose court, skate park and the North Kansas Ave. sidewalk projects. Bids were entered by Abbott Construction Company and JAG Construction.

“There were two bidders that attended the pre-bid meeting which was necessary in order to participate in the bid,” Public Works Director Joe Sealey said.

Abbott Construction Company entered the low bid of \$297,975, JAG Construction asked for \$310,268 to complete the job. Both companies came in well under the engineers estimate of \$352,000.

In an effort to assure the project reaches completion with as little complications as possible, a performance bond was required.

“Is (Cliff Abbott) aware that he has to have a performance bond?” commissioner Dave Harrison asked.

“Yes, he is,” Sealey said.

Harrison asked Sealey to further explain the protection a performance bond provides.

“The performance bond protects us if the contractor does not complete the project,” Sealey said. “Also, it is used for your protection if something should happen and the contractor is gone or no longer exists. That also provides a one year warranty, so to speak. It gives us a year's worth of protection.”

Harrison had a few questions and expectations he directed to Abbott, owner of Abbott Construction.

“Have you done a project of this size before?” Harrison asked.

“Yes, we have,” Abbott said. “There are three projects we have done that are comparable.”

“This is a public project, and I expect it to be done in a professional way,” Harrison told Abbott. “Don't allow the equipment to sit on location and a lot of trash and stuff not being cleaned up. Those are the expectations that I have.”

Abbott Construction estimated 115 days were needed for substantial completion and 130 days for final completion following the beginning of construction.

City selects contractor to complete Light Park projects

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Permission was granted by the commission to negotiate with the selected contractor the ability to expand the size of the multipurpose court by approximately 675 square yards at an estimated cost of \$27,000.

The motion to approve Abbott Construction for the Park and Sidewalk Project was made by commissioner Bob Carlile and received a second from commissioner Larry Koochel. Approval was unanimous.

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