
CITY MANAGER

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Beloit City Council Approves Sale of Former Angel Museum Site to Visit Beloit

Jan. 22, 2020 - The Beloit City Council unanimously approved the sale of 656 Pleasant St. (the site of the former Angel Museum) to Visit Beloit during its meeting on Tuesday. Visit Beloit plans to renovate the existing building into an event venue and will then add onto the building for offices, as well as an experience center area to welcome visitors to Beloit.

The closing is planned for next week.

Visit Beloit's proposal was one of six proposals received when the city sought request for proposals for the site's future last spring. The city was seeking a developer to transform the site into a new use that is compatible with the surrounding land uses, complement the existing business mix, and that will be economically viable long-term.

"Visit Beloit's proposal stood out as an impressive option for the revitalization of this space," said City Manager Lori Curtis Luther. "The unique plans for the building will make it an outstanding addition to downtown Beloit."

The sale was approved for \$1 and includes conditions that allow the city to repurchase the property should the property not be developed after three years or should Visit Beloit look to sell the property to another buyer, per the agreement approved on Tuesday.

The renovation will be completed in two phases. Phase I of Visit Beloit's proposal for the existing building will house Visit Beloit's office temporarily on the Garden Level and the main floor will be converted into an events venue at a cost of \$434,000. Phase I will take place this year. Phase II is planned for 2021 and will include a 7,980 square foot office suite addition that would house Visit Beloit, as well as three other tenants. Total cost for Phase II is estimated at \$2,185,000. Visit Beloit is responsible for funding the project.

"Our organization will embark on a marvelous transformation of this historic property along the banks of the Rock River in the heart of our City Center," said Celestino Ruffini,

chief executive officer for Visit Beloit. “This property acquisition begins a new chapter toward our organization’s long-term vitality.”

The property at 656 Pleasant St. is owned by the City of Beloit and previously housed the Angel Museum until its closure in late 2018. Once the closing occurs, the City of Beloit will no longer be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance on the property.

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Members of the media wishing to contact Celestino Ruffini, chief executive officer for Visit Beloit, may contact him at celestino@visitbeloit.com or 608-313-1360.



VISIT BELOIT

