

## Alley paving project contingent on store construction

Written by Chris Lee

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City of Holyoke received a letter from Drake Real Estate Services Inc. of Denver asking for a commitment to pave the alley traveling north from Highway 6 behind Holyoke Community Federal Credit Union to KarDale's Restaurant. The request comes as the company is looking to construct a building that would house a proposed Family Dollar store.

Also requested was a commitment that trucks could load and unload from the alley.

Council members voted Tuesday, March 20 to send a letter saying the alley would be paved, but only in conjunction with the beginning of construction on the proposed store that would be built on the lot where Baldwin Chevrolet once stood.

A copy of the city ordinance dealing with loading and unloading of trucks will also be sent to Drake Real Estate Services.

City Supt. Mark Brown said in the past they have received requests that it be paved from businesses along that particular stretch of alley. The city's answer has been no, unless something be built so concrete wouldn't have to be torn up to install underground utilities.

In the letter from Drake Real Estate Services, it states construction on the store could begin toward the end of May and be completed in early August.

Drake Real Estate Services would build the building which would be leased or sold to Family Dollar.

Money for the alley project will come from the street department's budget, should the project go through. Brown said the alley would cost approximately \$10,000 and work will be done by the City.

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The City has \$130,000 budgeted for street maintenance which includes the annual seal coat program. Brown said the alley project could be done but it will make the budget tight. Much of it depends on the price of oil at the time.

If the alley paving project goes through and the oil price is high, certain portions of the seal coat program might have to be scaled back, according to Brown.

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