

Bank Building Could Become New Bremerton Courthouse

By Steven Gardner

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BREMERTON —

Bremerton's long search for a courthouse may be over.

The Bremerton City Council voted 9-0 Wednesday to approve the purchase of the Kitsap Bank building at Sixth Street and Park Avenue for \$1.725 million.

The partnership that owns the property, of which Kitsap Bank is a part, still needs to sign the deal after final negotiations. City Attorney Roger Lubovich said if the deal does get signed, it should close on or before April 30.

The deal would finally put to rest an issue that has been nagging at the city at least since 2002, when voters approved a \$13 million public safety bond.

This is also the second time the [bank building was considered](#) for the new courthouse. An earlier bid [fell through in January](#) when the property's partners didn't respond to an offer.

Lubovich said Wednesday the city approached property owners about the site, which wasn't for sale at the time.

Since 2002, the city has considered putting the municipal court in the former CenCom 911 dispatch building near the Warren Avenue Bridge; a property near Seventh Street and Park Avenue; the building that now houses Kitsap Bank at Sixth Street and Pacific Avenue; the Post Office building across the street; and in the building that now houses the Bremerton Police Department on Burwell Street. The city also looked at fixing up the building it currently leases for the court.

Lubovich said Bremerton officials had even begun talking again with the real estate agents selling the Post Office building when the Kitsap Bank property owners called and asked if the city was still interested.

The city was interested, in large part because it would take very little interior work to make the former bank into a courthouse, Lubovich said. "This one has a perfect layout," he said.

At least part of the purchase would be financed. Lubovich said loan payments may end up being less than what the city is paying for its lease of the building at 900 Pacific Avenue.



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