LAFAYETTE – The City Council here approved bond issuances Tuesday totaling $3.5 million that will allow the Lafayette Airport Commission to finish major airport renovations.

The Lafayette Parish Council must also approve the bond issuances, since the city and parish governments jointly oversee the airport. The parish council meets Thursday.

Also Tuesday, the City Council approved a $228,000 contract for sidewalks on Moss Street in north Lafayette and approved a $61,900 contract for the renovation of Neyland Park.

The airport bonds are for restructuring payments by the airport commission for final improvements to the airport terminal, the last phase of a major airport renovation, said city auditor George Lewis.

The airport commission will be paying $390,000 a year to retire the bonds, Lewis said.

In other business Tuesday, the council approved a $228,870 contract with R&I Construction Co. of Baton Rouge, which will lay 24,000 linear feet of sidewalk along both sides of Moss Street, from Alexander Street to E. Gloria Switch Road. The project’s cost, based on the winning bid, will be $123,000 less than what was budgeted, and the council moved $100,000 of the surplus to street maintenance budget and $23,000 to the council reserve fund.

Public Works Director Jerry Trupps said the $100,000 in street maintenance is needed because of the extreme freeze in December, and also a wetter than normal winter and spring, quickened the deterioration of asphalted streets.

The money will go toward patching and repairing the streets, Trumps said.

In other business Tuesday, the council approved a contract with Rudick Co. Inc., for renovating the concession stands, restrooms and storage facility at Neyland Park.

The construction is scheduled to take 60 calendar days, and will be undertaken as youth baseball season begins, said Joe Maniscalco, engineer with the Public Works Department.

He told council members the construction area “will be secured” from ball players and the rest of the public attending games.

Councilman Al Simon asked why the project could not be delayed until the end of the season.

Parks and Recreation Director Gerald Boudreaux said that the neighborhood baseball association in the Neyland Park area “wants to bite the bullet” and have the construction proceed now because major tournaments are scheduled at the season’s end.

More than 800 youths play in the baseball program at the park.