Joint venture on an ambitious projec

COR VUS
Municipal Reporter

IT'S ON! Pretoria's multimillion-rand rejuvena
tion starts today.

Over the next six years as much as R500-million
will be pumped into the capital's sagging "city core"
as the private sector responds to a city council deci-
sion to go ahead with its most ambitious project yet.

The project — details of which were announced
by the council in June last year — is expected to
result in "a total metamorphosis" of the heart of the
city by 1993.

At its monthly meeting yesterday, the council
approved procedures, requirements and conditions
for tenders and presentation procedures to be fol-
lowed by firms and consortiums that would like to
participate in the scheme.

The council will now immediately start the pro-
cedure to invite the private sector formally to make
offers to underwrite the project. A council spokesman
said the invitation would be advertised countrywide
"to make as many developers as possible aware of
the project".

The management committee member responsible
to town planning affairs, Mr Cor Vus, said develop-
ers — which could include consortiums — would be
required to submit proof before September 14 of
their financial capability to execute the development
successfully.

Detailed proposals by developers must reach the
council by November 17.

Mr Vus said the city council would hopefully be
able to approve the proposals and give the green
light at its monthly meeting in January next year for
the work to start.

The mayor of Pretoria, Dr Chris Swart, said the
project was based on partnerships between the city
council, as property owner, and also tenants in
some of the envisaged buildings — and the private
sector as financiers and developers.

The project will comprise the redevelopment
of Church Square, the conversion of Church Street
between Bosman and Prinsloo streets into a pedes-
trian boulevard, and the redevelopment of Verwoerd
Square on the block bounded by Church, Van der
Walt, Vermeulen and Prinsloo streets.

Included in the scheme are open-air cafes, kiosks
and lower-level shops on Church Square.

The pedestrian boulevard will be full of trees,
flower-boxes, benches, water-pools and fountains,
open-air cafes, kiosks, platforms for musicians,
a large cheeseboard and a morning market.

Developments on Verwoerd Square will include
a planetarium, restaurant, coffee bars, roof-gardens,
cinemas, a five-star hotel with conference facilities,
a new city library, a tourist bureau and an airways
terminal.

Our Political Correspondent reports from
Cape Town that Pretoria's mayors have welcomed the
city council's plan to revamp the city centre.