

BMW supplier promises Oconee \$10M, 70 jobs

Ulbrich, courthouse, winery ordinances also advanced

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — While the name of the company has not yet been publicized, details were revealed Tuesday about the BMW supplier that looks set to become the first tenant of the Oconee Industry and Technology Park.

County administrator Scott Moulder said at a regular meeting of the county council that the company, thus far known only as "Project Mack-

inaw," would invest a minimum of \$10 million and create at least 70 new jobs in the county.

Oconee economic development director Richard Blackwell told The Journal that the county expects the company to exceed the minimum requirements promised in its fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement, but the terms mentioned by Moulder were "their stated starting point."

The company would locate on a 300,000-square-foot pad site that fronts

S.C. Highway 11 and is on the right side of the entrance road.

OITP, which was recently selected as the destination for a planned Oconee County Workforce Development Center that would include a Tri-County Technical College campus, also has a 50,000-square-foot pad available that has been identified by at least one company as a finalist for its project.

Council also approved on third and final reading Tuesday an amendment to the fee agreement between the county and Ulbrich Precision Flat Wire to incorporate Ulbrich Solar Technologies Inc. as a sponsor.

The ordinance allows

the subsidiary to receive the incentives agreed upon when an expansion agreement was finalized with the parent company in late 2013, when the firm agreed to invest \$5 million in an expansion at its Oconee facility.

The agreement called for a reduced assessment to 6 percent and locked millage of 213.0, and includes clawback provisions if the company does not meet the \$5 million minimum investment.

Council also unanimously advanced on second reading an ordinance that involves Historic Oconee Courthouse LLC and local homebuilder Tom Markovich, who along with a partner plans to develop the for-

mer county courthouse into a boutique hotel in downtown Walhalla.

Also advanced on second reading was an ordinance to amend the county's zoning map for what would be Oconee's first-ever planned development district on 436 acres on Stamp Creek Road near Salem that is currently zoned residential.

Greenville-based businessman Russ Gardiner's development plan calls for a pair of projects on the property — 335 acres for a 500-member private social club called Equus Club at Lake Keowee and 101.55 acres for a planned Lake Keowee Winery that would be open to the public.