ITT plans $2.5M expansion

Council meeting to finalize FILOT deal postponed

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
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WALHALLA — Oconee County Council's meeting Tuesday night was canceled after an ice storm hit the area, delaying final approval of two economic development projects.

County administrator Scott Moulder said the meeting could be rescheduled for next week, but nothing had been officially announced at press time Tuesday.

The agenda for the meeting was highlighted by a pair of public hearings, as well as final readings of ordinances, for economic development projects in the county.

The first is Ordinance 2014-33, a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement with ITT Enidine, Inc., previously known as Project Control, for an expansion of ITT's operation in Oconee. The Delaware-based company would develop a facility for manufacturing natural gas vehicle components and products and make a minimum investment of $2.5 million in the county within five years in return for a 6-percent assessment and fixed millage for a 30-year term.



Blackwell

Oconee Economic Alliance executive director Richard Blackwell said the project would not immediately result in the creation of any new jobs.

"This is more to help with a launch of a new product line within the company that will strengthen the facility here for many years to come," Blackwell told The Journal.

The project will be at 105 Commerce Way in Westminster, the existing site of ITT / Compact Automation.

Blackwell said the state of

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South Carolina would announce the deal more formally "in a couple of weeks," as the county is still working on a few details with the firm.

"However, it is great news for the company and for ITT as this firm has chosen to grow in Oconee and put this important product line in Oconee," he said. "(It) demonstrates we have the workforce here and faith from their corporate leadership."

The second economic development matter is Ordinance 2015-05, an amendment to an already-amended FILOT agreement with Greenfield Industries Inc. The ordinance would include TDC Greenfield Properties LLC as a co-sponsor along with TDC Clemson Land Company, GreenTech Metal Recycling LLC and TDC Saws LLC as co-sponsors in the project.

It does not alter the value of the existing FILOT provided the company and its subsidiaries now have a minimum investment level of $15 million in the project.

"There are about 10 subsidiaries right there on that site, and they just want to make sure that as they grow and as they reach the capital investments they've promised to the county and the state, that they're able to take advantage of these different subsidiaries growing over time and having the jobs associated," Blackwell told The Journal earlier this month.

China-based TDC Cutting Tools announced last summer it would invest $8.2 million to establish its overseas headquarters at the same site as its subsidiary, Greenfield Industries, on Davis Creek Road in Seneca.

The new TDC Overseas campus will include a 32,000-square-foot office building and a 10,000-square-foot recycling center added to the existing 168,000-square-foot facility. The expansion is expected to create 38 jobs in Seneca.

Also noteworthy on the agenda for the meeting are discussions on hiring an in-house attorney and Humane Society funding in the portion reserved for old business.

wo economic items on agenda

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