New Business Could bring 7 jobs, $1.25 M

investment to Oconee

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WALHALLA — A new business, which would bring seven jobs and a $1.25 million investment in Oconee County, may soon be announcing plans to locate in the county after action by County Council Tuesday night.

The council approved second reading of an ordinance authorizing an infrastructure tax credit agreement between the county and the yet-to-be-named business referred to as "Project Zeta."

Russell Johnson, project and marketing manager for the Oconee County Economic Development Commission, said the new business will likely announce plans to locate in the county prior to a public hearing and third and final reading on the ordinance, which could come as early as March 19. He said the business is a small data center project and would provide seven new jobs.

The tax credit is an incentive in which the company will receive a rebate on property taxes for a limited period of time, Johnson said.

In other business, the council approved a resolution requiring boards, commissions and committees appointed by County Council to establish an annual meeting schedule.

County Administrator Scott Moulder said the purpose of the resolution was to get those organizations following the same rules as the council and make information about them more accessible to the public. Those meetings will soon be appearing on the county website, Moulder said, and most groups will move meetings to County Council chambers so those meetings can be recorded.

Moulder also announced the county has offered temporary space on county property for the Oconee AID Association and is working with others to see if a plan can be put together to keep the organization operating. The association, which has been providing assistance with food, clothing and a variety of other needs for 35 years, closed its doors at the end of February citing a lack of funding.

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