

Council gives first OK on \$4M project creating 20 new jobs in Westminster

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THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County Council has taken the first step in approving a tax break package that requires an undisclosed company to create 20 new jobs and invest almost \$4 million in the former Dunlop plant.

Council unanimously approved first reading Tuesday night of an ordinance authorizing a special source revenue credit agreement for Project Galt that would abate property taxes on the former plant that has been vacant since 2013 by 45 percent over the next two years. The company would be required to create the full-time jobs and invest \$3,975,000 in taxable property to receive the incentive. A final reading is scheduled for Oct. 17. Oconee Economic Alliance has been working with the group since April, according to an agenda item summary.

OEA reps said the “building is in poor condition and not very conducive to most manufacturing operations.”

“Bringing a productive user with investment and jobs to the building will be an economic benefit for a census tract that is economically distressed,” the summary said.



FILE

The new owner of the former Dunlop and TaylorMade plant outside Westminster could be revealed as early as Oct. 17. The property has sat vacant for about 10 years, but that might change in the near future.

The Journal reported in June the 37-acre property sold for \$3 million to Miles Palmer LLC.

The building, which recently housed the TaylorMade golf company, could potentially be turned into a book distribution center, Oconee County Councilman Julian Davis said at the time.

TAX BREAKDOWN

Backup agenda material said the old building on the outskirts of Westminster city limits on U.S.

Highway 123 has a current value of \$1,473,690. With a 6 percent tax assessment, the estimated tax on the building is \$19,267, according to backup agenda material. With a nearly \$4 million investment, property taxes would increase to \$54,160 by year three.

Editor's note: The Journal will have more from Tuesday night's Oconee County Council meeting throughout the week.