

MA city council discusses sewer expansion

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that would get under operation in Mount Ayr would be the sheet metal fabrication portion of the plant. The presses for forming of the sheet metal and light steel portions of the generators would be in place in January.

For the first year and one half to two years, blades for the turbines would be manufactured in California, but plans are to move the blade manufacturing to Mount Ayr at the end of that time.

The firm is also planning to acquire a tool and die business that would be another part of the operation.

The only part of the turbines that is not planned to be built in Mount Ayr are the towers on which the generators and blades are placed, Sharp said. This is because of the special skill needed in making the tower pieces.

Sharp noted that the company already has some of the turbines presold and they are talking with Iowa energy firms and large manufacturers about using their turbines.

Sharp presented a picture of what the Heartland Energy Solutions building would look like with its new wind turbine outside which will be used to provide electricity for the plant. It is hoped to pour the footings for the wind turbine at the plant yet this fall.

The turbines manufactured in Mount Ayr will have two sizes of towers, depending on the wind speeds in the area. They will have 52 foot blades and the generators will be able to be upgraded through the three sizes the company will sell.

Sharp told the council that the presentation to the Iowa Department of Economic Development was that the firm would have 106 jobs by the end of three years.

Wages for non-management personnel will average some \$12.60 an hour ranging over different types of jobs. Teams will build each generator together and it is expected that there will be four teams working at the beginning.

Benefits will include health insurance, dental insurance and life insurance. After three years, the firm plans to begin a 401(k) program for employees.

In addition to salary, bonuses will be given in relationship to the profitability of the company.

"When we are successful we want to make sure that everyone has a part in that success," Sharp said.

He noted that having the council help with the transition of the industrial building to their ownership was a big help in speeding along the process of getting underway.

Council members expressed their appreciation for the firm and what the city hopes will be a long and fruitful relationship.