

Mount Ayr Record News



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Mount Ayr council looking at ways to aid new industry

More details about Heartland Energy Solutions, the new industry opening offices in Mount Ayr, were revealed this week as the Mount Ayr city council began discussions with the company on how they might be of help to make their development here more easy.

Mayor Don Solliday has been discussing ways the city could help with president Charles Sharp and some of the other management team members.

Heartland Energy Solutions is a turn key energy solutions based company that will manufacture, assemble, engineer, install and service mid-sized turbines to provide electrical energy.

The "Freedom" product line will include wind turbines from 10 KW in size to 100 KW in size, smaller than some of the bigger turbines.

According to information from the company, mid-ranged wind turbine products virtually do not exist and the demand for wind turbines is growing quickly.

Iowa State University wind maps show more class 2 and class 3 wind locations that can run the mid-sized generators than the class 5 or above locations that have enough wind energy to drive the large wind turbines.



The company plans to expand into solar, hydrogen, biomass solutions and motion base propulsion in the future.

Its temporary research and development and sales facility is at 1010 S. Cleveland St. in Mount Ayr.

Other companies that make up Heartland Energy Solutions include Fox Engineering, a project engineering research and development arm for future products, and Energy Engineering Services, which will provide installation and service.

Plans are to employ some 23 people in the first year of production with that number increasing to 77 by the end of four years.

Eventually a 230-foot tall wind turbine is planned be installed at the plant as a symbol of the new industry that can be seen for long distances.

Management team for the company includes Paul Ramsey, founder; Patrick Ramsey, strategic planning and alliances; M. Paul Ramsey, market research; Charles Sharp, CEO/CFO president; Todd Blanton, vice president of research and development; Larry Preston Jr., director of electrical engineering, and Steve Gilbert, vice president of sales.

Mayor Don Solliday has been visiting with principals of the company to see what the city might be able to do to help ensure that the industry gets under operation in Mount Ayr.

He noted that Southwestern Community College would be providing some training for the company's employees.

Early indications were that the road to the industrial complex might need to be widened, but the size of equipment to be hauled from the plant here has been determined to fit on a regular semi trailer so this is not a pressing concern.

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More on new industry

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With the announcement that Mount Ayr Products is closing its plant here, Solliday has been doing some checking to see if the city would help with the transition of the Mount Ayr Products building to ownership by the new Heartland Energy Solutions firm.

Solliday suggested that the city look into purchasing the building and then leasing it to the new firm for five years with a buyout at the end of that time which would pay the city back for its investment.

The measure would mean that the \$15,000 in property taxes on the building would be considerably less until the building was finally purchased.

Heartland Energy Solutions

had made a counter offer that the city council was sending to the city attorney for review.

The council voted to give Solliday the authority to find out what it would cost to purchase the Mount Ayr Products building and then the council would look at any proposals for helping with the transition of the building between owners.

"We need to do what we can do to try to make sure that this industry gets into production here and stays here," council member Doug Still noted.

Because the city would plan to get its money back from its building purchase price, Solliday said the city could cash in a CD from its carryover to help with the purchasing of the building.