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Company's expansion means new Fairfield jobs

By Eric Robinette

Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — A Fairfield company that has manufactured sleds for Olympic teams will bring in 10 new jobs to the city when it completes an expansion of its Port Union Road facility.

City council Monday approved a community investment agreement for the Machintek expansion, which will add 40,000 square feet to the facility, said City Manager Art Pizzano. In return for a seven-year, 60 percent tax abatement, the company will contribute \$9,200 a year to Fairfield City Schools, and \$300 a year to Butler Tech, all for seven years. The company will retain the 52 jobs it has now, then bring in at least 10 more after the expansion, Pizzano added.

According to city documentation, a company called 410 Properties will construct the office and warehouse addition and lease it to Machintek. The \$3 million project includes \$2 million in construction costs. The addition will double the size of the facility to 80,000 total square feet. It's expected to be complete by June 2015.

Machintek manufactures industrial equipment used by Procter and Gamble and other companies, said its president, Roger Hasler. In one of its most high-profile jobs, it manufactured sleds used by the U.S. Olympic skeleton sledding team, and those sleds helped the team to a bronze medal in the Sochi Olympics.

After starting in Cincinnati in 1985, the company moved to Fairfield ten years later. "We moved to Fairfield with about 17 or 18 people. We're now at 51. We've added several million dollars' worth of equipment. Our facility is just absolutely full and bursting at the seams," Hasler said.

He added that he doesn't feel further expansion is in the offing.

"I just feel like I need to maximize the lot we have, and that pretty much builds out the lot," he said. "We look to be here for a long time."

Councilman Bill Woeste told Hasler, "You're reinvesting, which tells us we're doing the right things. Obviously, if you're connected with people at the Olympic level, you're doing the right things," he said.

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