

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GO BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

March 20, 2017 at 4:00 pm | By AUSTIN MONTGOMERY Staff writer

BELOIT — The Beloit City Council will hear multiple development requests tonight including a food processing project and extending the Riverwalk for the Beloit College's Powerhouse site.

The council will discuss a plan to turn the former Overflowing Cup community center, 310 State St., into a real estate sales office, before sending the item back to the Plan Commission for further discussion. Owner Jeff Johnson stated the office could also be the potential site of an additional Beloit International Film Festival viewing location, according to the permit application submitted to the city.

If approved, the new office's lease would span five years, with work being completed by April 1, Johnson's application states. Work on the property began March 1.

Johnson could not be reached for comment. It is unclear whether the Overflowing Cup will relocate its operations.

The council will also review a plan to renovate the currently vacant portion of the Piggly Wiggly building at 1827 Prairie Avenue into a spice blending and sausage processing facility. The sausage produced on site will be sold both at a store to be located on the premises and elsewhere, the application said. Planning staff said the facility is an extension of the current butcher's activities at the grocery store, and will not be a large-scale operation.

Owner Miguel Guzman also indicated plans to renovate the front of the building to the east of the store entrance, which would already be permitted due to the commercial zoning of the property.

The 2,187-square foot property will be principally used to blend spices, with the meat marinating listed as the secondary use at the site, according to Guzman.

If approved, the lease would span 15 years, with work starting this spring. The store has a planned opening of the end of September, the permit said.

Councilors will then hear an easement request to acquire portions of the properties located at 810, 830 and 850 Pleasant Street in order to build the multi-use path known as the Powerhouse Riverwalk.

Last year, Beloit College secured a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to build the path, which will add a riverwalk along the west side of the power plant building. The plan will form a more direct connection between the existing multi-use paths, according to planning documents.

The project will be finished ahead of the college's plans to buy and renovate the former power plant and renovate the structure into a student activity and recreation center.

The current easements are over properties owned by the city, Midwest Hydro Inc. and Wisconsin Power and Light Company.