

Warehouse development may create up to 550 jobs

By Sophie Harris Staff writer | Posted: Thursday, September 10, 2015 4:00 pm

JANESVILLE — A proposed new retail distribution center could bring over 550 jobs to Janesville.

Dollar General hopes to build a 1 million-square-foot warehouse on the south side of Janesville. The facility would support the company's distribution in the Midwest and support regional expansion.

The Janesville City Council will consider two Tax Increment Financing Development Agreements and a Transportation Economic Assistance grant to move forward with the project at its meeting Monday.

According to a press release from the City of Janesville, the warehouse would be built by Dollar General in the city's State Highway 11 Business Park on a 124-acre site. The facility is planned for the southwest corner of Innovation Drive and Beloit Avenue. The complex also is planned to include a truck maintenance facility.

If approved by the city, Dollar General would begin construction in October and aim to open in 2016.

The company plans to hire about 550 workers, many of whom would be warehouse handlers, by 2019. If approved by the council, the distribution center would be the Dollar General's 14th largest facility nationwide.

“Dollar General will put the equivalent of nearly 1 percent of Janesville’s population to work,” said Janesville City Manager Mark Freitag in a news release.

He added this will be a new boost to the local economy.

According to a press release from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Dollar General President Todd Vasos said Janesville was chosen because of its strong business environment and good workforce. Two other Midwestern states were considered before choosing Wisconsin. The WEDC estimates that in addition to the 550 jobs to be created at the facility, over 1,073 jobs will be impacted by the new business within five years.