

S. Beloit closer to TIF district establishment

By Clint Wolf cwolf@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 4:00 pm

The South Beloit City Council took the first step Monday in possibly establishing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District along Gardner Street and Blackhawk Boulevard.

The council adopted a redevelopment resolution that sets the stage for the process of establishing a TIF District.

The proposed TIF District area would extend along Gardner Street from Highway 251 west to Blackhawk Boulevard, then extend south on Blackhawk Boulevard to Charles Street.

A prospective company has proposed a development, which could amount to up to \$7 million, in the area.

To qualify as a TIF, the area must be blighted or targeted as an area for conservation. TIF Districts can be an incentive to attract and retain businesses and manufacturing operations.

City Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski said there is no guarantee the TIF District will be established, but the city is taking the first steps because a project is being proposed by a company and South Beloit is a potential site for that project. She said the company is not being named at this time, but she expected the company to be revealed in the next two to three months.

A TIF District normally is a method to use future gains in taxes to subsidize current improvements to an area. This improves borrowing capacity for improvement projects.

In other business, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Reininger said the resurfacing project on South Bluff Street is set to begin either by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

The project will span from Shirland Avenue to the South Bluff Mobile Home Park. The first work to be done will be curb work, but milling and resurfacing will be done in a few weeks. There will be lane closures and road closures in three to four weeks as the road project progresses. The deadline to finish the project is Nov. 15.

Also during Monday's meeting, the South Beloit Lions Club requested \$5,000 from the city's Hotel/Motel Tax Fund, but council members explained they could not comply with the request.

Jerry Miller of the South Beloit Lions Club said the requested funds would be used for advertising of its events such as the pancake day and bingo. However, Sosnowski explained the Hotel/Motel tax funds are, by law, to be used to promote tourism and the use of related facilities.

Miller said the Lions Club has funded projects that has included welcome signs at the entrances to the city as well as a gazebo and shelter in City Park. He said he felt the Lions Club was more

deserving of the funds than other organizations that have received Hotel/Motel funds such as the South Beloit Fire Department or the Bushnell Wheeler House.

The request for funds died due to a lack of a second.