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EDITOR'S PICK

City moving ahead with plans for solar park

Council approves hiring consultant to help find developer

Mitchell Kirk Staff reporter Feb 12, 2018



Logansport officials are moving forward with a plan to develop a solar field on the city's west side.

City Council voted last week to commit \$10,000 to McCullough Research in Portland Oregon. The firm will draft a request for proposals for developing the solar park, evaluate submissions and make a recommendation. The funds will come from the city's county economic development income tax fund.

McCullough Research has worked for Logansport in the past and consulted on wholesale power proposals city and LMU leaders considered in 2016.

Logansport and LMU officials are considering a solar field on about 9 acres at 1 General Street, a project that's estimated to cost about \$3.5 million. The city owns the property, which is where a former Trelleborg Automotive USA Inc. plant stood before being demolished in 2012.

City council members voted 5-2 Feb. 5 on first reading in favor of the expenditure with Amy Densborn, Terry Doran, Matt Meagher, Dave Morris and Scott Peattie voting in favor and Larry Hood and Teresa Popejoy voting against.

"I think we should move forward with this," Peattie said Feb. 12, adding he supports renewable energy.

Hood said on Feb. 8 that he cannot support using public funds to develop the park at a time when officials are preparing to raise LMU water, sewer and stormwater rates.

"If this was a project where somebody was wanting to spend their money and put in the solar park, I'd be all behind it," Hood said.

City council will vote for the second and final time on the contract at its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 5 in the Council Chambers on the third floor of the City Building, 601 E. Broadway.

Reach Mitchell Kirk at mitchell.kirk@pharostribune.com or 574-732-5130

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Mitchell Kirk

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