Future Foam confirms city expansion

BY PAT KIMBROUGH
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HIGH POINT — A south High Point manufacturer of foam materials will move forward with an $8.5 million expansion of its plant at 1300 Prospect St. that's expected to create at least 25 full-time jobs.

Future Foam Inc. Plant Manager Tim Akins said Thursday that he hopes an addition to the facility will start in the fourth quarter of this year, pending city approval of construction plans.

Future Foam considered other company locations out of state for the expansion, according to the city.

"This is an exciting project. This will be the third expansion here in probably 20 years," Akins said.

The City Council in January authorized up to $161,840 in incentives for Future Foam if it picked High Point for the expansion.

To receive the money, Future Foam will have to enter into a contract with the city that would set out a payment schedule where it would have to document that it was creating the promised jobs and investment amounts before any grants were paid.

Based in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Future Foam makes polyurethane foam that's used in furniture cushioning, mattresses and other products.

The company has 27 facilities in 13 states, as well as locations in Germany and China, according to its website.

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Future Foam, Inc. plans to break ground on an expansion of its foam-manufacturing plant in south High Point in the fourth quarter of 2019. The company picked High Point for the project over other locations it owns out of state.

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Akins said the investment and job-creation numbers cited at an incentives public hearing for the project are conservative, and he expects to surpass them with the expansion.

The new jobs will include pourline operators, as well as crane operators and shipping and maintenance personnel. Akins said business has been strong across several markets.

"Certainly, furniture and bedding, and also packaging and transportation," he said. "We're very diverse."