



Home Depot gets go ahead in Monroe

By Denise Wilson Staff Writer

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MONROE — Monroe City Council has given Home Depot a green light to build a \$33.9 million distribution center in the city.

Council approved an amended emergency resolution by a 5-1 vote Tuesday night that authorizes and directs City Manager William Brock to enter into a community reinvestment area agreement between the city and Duke Realty Corp.

The plan calls for a 15-year, 80 percent tax abatement to attract Home Depot to build a 657,000-square-foot regional distribution center in the Monroe Commerce Center behind Kohls and Xerox north of Ohio 63. Council Member Bob Kelley voted against the legislation and Mayor Robert Routson was absent.

The project would bring 250 jobs in the first 18 months and an additional 350 jobs by 2009 with an estimated payroll of \$14.9 million, said Steve Denison, senior leasing representative in industrial projects for Duke Realty. The jobs would pay about \$12 an hour, Denison said.

The distribution center will supply Home Depots stores in the tri-county and Greater Cincinnati areas, Duke officials said.

The amended resolution was approved by council contingent upon the signing of the lease agreement between Duke Realty and Home Depot, and that some language in the contract be cleaned up to specify exactly how many people would be hired at the site and when.

Kelley said he was interested in making sure that Home Depot end up in Monroe, but said he was uneasy about approving the deal without seeing the actual amended documents and having input from the city's law director, K. Philip Callahan, who was absent from the meeting.

"I'm personally not accustomed to writing somebody a blank check," he said.

Grading work is scheduled to begin on the site on Feb. 1, with a project completion date expected by Aug. 15, 2008, city officials said.

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