

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (TX)

September 11, 2006

Section: Metro

Edition: ArlingtonS

Page: B1

City considers tax break for plant

SUSAN SCHROCK

STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

ARLINGTON — The city is considering tax breaks for a south Arlington aerospace manufacturing company contracted to build components for the military's F-35 joint strike fighter Lightning II.

Progressive Inc. plans to invest nearly \$40 million to expand its operations and hire at least 100 more employees, according to the city. The company, a subsidiary of Heroux-Devtec Aerostructures of Canada, has asked for a tax abatement of up to 45 percent of its added taxable value for seven years.

The abatement, which would apply only to new machinery at the plant, would be contingent on whether Progressive's taxable value reaches \$10 million by Jan. 1, 2008. The company would have to refund the tax break if it does not fulfill its investment promises, said Karen VanWinkle, the city's project coordinator.

The Arlington City Council is scheduled to vote on the request at its meeting Tuesday night. The council has already approved creating a reinvestment district that would allow the city to offer incentives to the company, on Industrial Boulevard south of West Harris Road.

"This is a hometown company," VanWinkle said. "They are bringing a considerable amount of investment to the community as well as new jobs."

Public hearings are also scheduled Tuesday on several planned developments, including a rezoning request that would allow offices, small shops and a restaurant that would serve alcoholic beverages in the 800 block of Rogers Street near Randol Mill Road and Collins Street.

Other rezoning requests would allow:

Offices to open on what is now residential property in the 3500 block of West Green Oaks Boulevard near Matlock Road.

A veterinary clinic and pet hospital to open in the 7800 block of South Cooper Street south of Harris Road.

A 7-11 convenience store to open in the 1900 block of Sublett Road near New York Avenue.

The council will also discuss and vote on settlements with four landowners who sued the city for taking their land for the Cowboys stadium. Among them is Evelyn Wray, 71, who was the last homeowner to move.

Glenn **Sodd**, Wray's attorney, said that a verbal agreement had been reached with the city but that he did not want to comment on the details. Wray was awarded \$1.2 million for her 4-acre property on Randol Mill Road by a court-appointed panel, but she appealed the decision.

The city will also vote on settlements with Barrio Holdings, Collins Avenue Partners and

Larry D. Smith for their properties along Collins Street, which were also seized for the stadium project.

Staff writer Andrea Ahles contributed to this report.

IF YOU GO

The Arlington City Council is set to meet Tuesday at City Hall, 101 W. Abram St.

On the agenda: Vote on tax abatements for military contractor Progressive Inc.; public hearings on rezoning requests; discussion and vote on settlements with property owners whose land was taken for the Cowboys' stadium.

Work session: 2:30 p.m.

Evening meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Telecast: City 5 on the Arlington Time Warner cable system.

Susan Schrock, 817-548-5475 sschrock@star-telegram.com