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# City takes steps toward North Wenatchee Ave redevelopment

by Pete O'Cain | May 27, 2017, 5:05 p.m.



## Photo provided

Provided graphic Building a new district in north Wenatchee would require a couple of major road changes, including realigning Miller Street and extending the road 1,000 feet to the east.

## MORE INFO

### A San Francisco suitor?

WENATCHEE — The proposed McKittrick Street extension would run directly through what is now a Stemilt Growers-owned warehouse east of the BNSF Railway tracks between North Miller Street and Hawley Street.

The warehouse is expected to be bought by a company from San Francisco and resized so the extension can pass by, according to a City Council report. If everything goes according to plan, renovations should start later this year.

City officials have declined to identify the company, but did say it is committed to moving to Wenatchee and expects to begin operations by Jan. 1, 2018.

WENATCHEE — Last August, the city announced plans to redevelop much of north Wenatchee Avenue, including a new business and residential district and major changes to roads. Altogether, that would take an estimated \$240 million of private investment and \$37 million of public investment

The city on Thursday made its first moves toward making the district a reality.

City Council agreed to enter a purchase and sale agreement to buy property owned by Northwest Wholesale on the 1500 block of North Wenatchee Avenue.

The property is divided in three parcels: one that the city is buying for \$1.9 million, another that Michelsen Packaging will buy for \$2.3 million and a third that the city intends to acquire through a federal process.

In the long-term, redeveloping the Northwest Wholesale property should bring the city increased revenue from property and sales taxes.

“Specifically Northwest Wholesale, I think if you really want that area to turn and be something different, it’s probably imperative that the city get involved,” said Mayor Frank Kuntz. “If you

10/31/2017

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According to the City Council report, the company anticipates hiring 96 employees, with salaries ranging from \$45,000 to \$100,000 a year.

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want something else to be on that spot then it's probably up to the city to get in the middle of it."

The \$1.9 million comes from a loan that the city would repay with property taxes, the sale of a few parcels and some grant money related to the McKittrick Street extension, said Economic

Development Director Steve King.

City Council also gave city staff permission to apply for a loan that would help pay for a railroad crossing on McKittrick Street where it would be extended east of Wenatchee Avenue across the tracks and all the way to Miller Street.

The district the city wants to redevelop is a 60-acre area between Wenatchee Avenue, Walla Walla Park and Wenatchee Confluence State Park.

Making it work, staff said, requires extending McKittrick over (or under) the railroad to Miller Street, which itself will be realigned to run parallel to the railroad.

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