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Miamisburg may accept Mound property

By Thomas Gnau

Staff Writer

Miamisburg City Council tonight will consider accepting some 156 acres of a former nuclear weapons development site in the city for economic development purposes.

The Mound Development Corp. — which oversees the Mound Advanced Technology Center business park in Miamisburg — wants to transfer some 156 acres of property to the city, according to a memo to council members from Chris Fine, Miamisburg's development director.

"This will allow the property to remain in a tax-free state relative to property taxes until a commercial tenant is identified and/or the property, or portions thereof, are developed for commercial use," Fine wrote in the memo.

"This transfer will also provide greater flexibility for future marketing of the site because the city will be more involved in redevelopment projects as the owner of the property," Fine added.

In an interview Tuesday, Fine pointed to expected "tax advantages" if the city holds the property. And he agreed that the city could help market the property to potential tenant companies. But he said most of the marketing would be handled by Mound Development Corp., just as it is now.

He also said no prospective companies are currently eyeing the land. "There's no one waiting in the wings," he said.

The U.S. Department of Energy has transferred land to Mound after completing environmental clean-up work at the site, which today is a campus for an array of technology-focused and research-oriented businesses. The campus is a former Department of Energy site that was home to research and development of defense and space components.

Most the land the city is considering is at the southern end of the Mound campus, parts of which include parking lots, Mound Science and Energy Museum property and the former Thaler Machine property, Fine's memo said.

An ordinance will be before council members at today's 7 p.m. council meeting at the city civic center, 10 N. First St.

A city spokesman said the measure is expected to pass.

A message seeking comment was left with Eric Cluxton, president of Mound Development.