

Council OKs incentives for Brazilian fabric maker

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HIGH POINT — A Brazilian fabric manufacturer could get financial assistance from the city if it expands its operations in High Point.

The City Council on Thursday unanimously authorized up to \$342,720 in cash grant incentives for Fitesa, which is considering adding two production lines that make specialty fabrics to support the health care industry in an \$18 million project at its plant at 200 S. West Point Ave.

With the expansion, the company would create 22 manufacturing jobs that pay from \$15 to \$19 per hour.

According to the city, Fitesa is considering other locations in the U.S. for the project and

expects to make a decision within 30 days.

"I'm very excited about the possibility of them (expanding) here," said Mayor Jay Wagner. "It's an area of town that really needs some jobs. It's a good company. I look forward to welcoming them to High Point if they (expand) here."

The private, family-owned company has 23 plants in 13 countries. Its North American headquarters are in Simpsonville, South Carolina.

It bought the 204,172-square-foot facility on West Point Avenue last year when it acquired Fiber Dynamics, a producer of engineered nonwoven fabrics that was based at the 8.6-acre site since 1983.

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Fitesa has retained all 80 initial positions of Fiber Dynamics, according to the city.

The council in the past six months has authorized three other incentives deals for projects, but none have announced whether they are going forward in High Point:

- In July, it authorized up to \$1.54 million in cash grant incentives for Brittan Group and KNova Film Capital to develop a film

studio at and around 614 W. Green Drive.

- In October, it authorized a deal that would grant DC Blox up to 50% of the city property taxes it pays each year for a period of time for a proposed data center in the Piedmont Centre business park.

- In December, it authorized up to \$31,758 in cash grant incentives for Hot Shots Distributing Inc., which is considering establishing a distribution and manufacturing operation at 827 W. Green Drive.

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