

St. Lucie OKs incentives for 2 companies adding jobs to area

By Eric Pfahler

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ST. LUCIE COUNTY — Two companies promising more than 100 total jobs will get incentives for being in St. Lucie County, commissioners decided Tuesday.

J.J. Taylor Distributing Florida, Inc. and Professional Golf Car Corporation of Florida received approval for grants Tuesday as the county works toward employing local residents hit hard by the recession and housing bust.

Should the jobs not come, the companies will not get the money.

J.J. Taylor, a beverage company, will get \$156,600 phased in over five years. The company will get a \$6,000 tax break on improvements made to its property. In exchange, the company must hire 72 employees at an average hourly wage of \$22.36.

Other taxing districts such as the school and fire district will collect on the new additions immediately. Once the time expires, the county will collect tax money on the improvements.

"J.J. Taylor invests in their employees, has a lean efficient operation and, we believe they will be a good community partner in St. Lucie County," Economic Development Council of St. Lucie President Larry Pelton wrote to the county on Feb. 28, 2011.

In May 2010, the company completed its facility at Crossroads Commerce Park just south of Okeechobee Road in Fort Pierce.

Professional Golf Car Corporation of Florida will get \$66,000 spread over three years for hiring 40 employees at an average wage of \$17.42 per hour.

The company relocated its corporate headquarters, main showroom, maintenance and storage facility to Nexus Park along State Road 70 in Fort Pierce earlier this year.

