

Update positive on Frick-Gallagher site

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"We've had some very positive activity at the Frick-Gallagher building site in the last month," Matt Wagner of Keramida Environmental told the members of Wellston City Council Thursday evening, September 6.

Keramida is the company working with the analysis and cleanup of the Frick-Gallagher area and Wagner has been on the project about 3 years.

He said 22 core samples had been taken about two weeks ago and reported, "They looked pretty good. The initial readings looked low." The samples are at a lab for a full analysis now and should, according to Wagner, be back in about five weeks.

Based on what he had seen so far, he told Council, "With the analyticals looking good, we can start marketing the site."

Wagner said a meeting attended by 12 or 13 people was held several weeks ago and "Five of those were interested in the property." When asked what that meant, Jackson County Economic Development Director Kara Willis, who accompanied Wagner, said, "They are interested in the site for economic development." No

further details were offered during the meeting of Council.

Wagner asked Council for permission to apply for a USEPA Grant that will be "site-specific." On a motion from Councilman Keith Woolum and a second offered by Councilman Sam Brady, the motion to apply for a USEPA Assessment Grant was unanimously approved.

If approved, the grant will be received in April of 2008. If it is not approved, Wagner said the city can apply for Clean Ohio Assistance funds which can be done in July, 2008.

Work at the site has already seen the removal of some contaminants, such as barrels containing unknown materials. "The site is not the threat it was a year ago," Wagner said.

Another positive factor was presented by Wellston City Engineer, Tim Wojdacz, who told Council, "There are no groundwater issues. We are just waiting on the metals analysis now." Wojdacz was at the site when the core samples were taken and was given high marks by Willis for his ability to, "come into a project in the middle of it."

Willis added, "With economic development, Tim, and Matt, we can make this site useful."



Photo By Steven P. Keller

Matt Wagner of Keramida Environmental is shown as he was telling Wellston City Council that contamination issues at the Frick-Gallagher site are not as bad as first thought.

Wellston Mayor, Edgar (Butch) Hayburn, said initial progress on the project had been slowed by ownership issues, but he said Wellston Legal Advisor, Joe Kirby, has been working with those issues since the beginning. "We want to make sure none of what is being done will cost the city any money," Hayburn said.