

HERMITAGE

City reduces influence on LindenPointe corporation board

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By Joe Pinchot, *Herald Staff Writer*

Hermitage commissioners on Monday amended the ordinance creating the Linden- Pointe Development Corp. to limit the number of corporation members appointed by commissioners to two.

The corporation was created in February to manage the training and workforce development building opened last year and the under-construction technology center, both in LindenPointe technical business park, South Hermitage Road.

Commissioners adopted the ordinance in February, setting the size of the board at 11, and appointed six people for what could be up to an 11- member board. The board was supposed to appoint additional members up to the limit, and then commissioners would appoint subsequent members.

However, Hill, Barth and King, the accounting firm helping the city create the corporation, recommended limiting the number of commissioner appointments to two to conform with federal requirements in achieving a 501(c)(3) non-profit status, said Assistant City Manager Gary M. Gulla.

The city still would maintain some control through a lease between the city and the corporation. The city must meet requirements mandated by the state and federal governments, who provided the lion's share of funding for the construction of the buildings, and those criteria will be passed on to the corporation through the lease, officials have said.

City officials hope to file the articles of incorporation with the state later in the month and then the board can write its bylaws, he said. The board members met recently and appointed interim officers of Chairman Rex W. Knisley, Vice Chairman Richard W. Epstein and Treasurer Louise Lowrey.

Officials also have been working with Yvonne English of Grove City College to develop a business plan for the incubator side of the tech center. The center will have a testing laboratory and five to seven incubator suites for start-up tech companies.