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## City looks for ways to connect with developers

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As the city with the highest unemployment rate in the state, city officials of Beloit are working on getting more jobs to the area.

City Manager Larry Arft and Economic Development Director Andrew Janke last week met with the city's development partners from the county, state and private sector to discuss several initiatives and efforts that could promote economic development and job creation in the Greater Beloit region.

In order to identify potential companies that could be successful in the area, the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation has partnered with the Rock County Development Alliance to hire the consultant, ROI, according to Janke.

The Texas-based company specializing in custom market research and advisory services has software that will identify up to 15 companies that are in the target industries of food technology and processing, advanced manufacturing, and logistics.

Those three industries were selected because they have the most potential at this particular time given the current environment, Janke said.

They must also fit the following requirements: they are in an expansion phase, they are interested in locating that facility to the Beloit region, and they are willing to have a meeting with the city to discuss the prospects for having a facility in Rock County.

There have been some very preliminary proposals for companies still doing site selection work, but there are no new projects near the final stages of decision making. Thus, the number of potential jobs is currently unknown.

"We're open to all sectors and all sizes," Janke said. "We're at the point where 10 jobs are as good as 100 jobs."

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