

Huntley trustees approve initial plans for microbrewery

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[HUNTLEY](#) – Trustees have approved initial plans for a microbrewery in Huntley.

The next step for Terry Hitpas, Tom Bartel and Lance Lamb – the owners of Union Special LLC who are looking to open the microbrewery in the Union Special manufacturing building – would be to start the formal development review and approval process with the village’s Plan Commission, said Charles Nordman, Huntley director of development services.

“[Trustees] were generally supportive of it,” Nordman said. “They just had a couple of questions clarifying how the business would operate.”

The item was [discussed at the May 18 Committee of the Whole meeting](#), and Nordman said there was no public comment regarding the proposed business.

Union Special, a sewing machine manufacturing company at 1 Union Special Plaza, has been operating in Huntley since 1949, village documents show. The microbrewery and taproom would take up about 2,700 square feet in the southeast corner of the facility near the smokestack.

Craft beer would be brewed in the facility, and a taproom would allow for customers to drink beer, bring in food from other restaurants and buy beer “to go” in controlled containers, village documents show. An outdoor beer garden also has been proposed.

More than 20 organizations rent out space in the building, Hitpas has said, including a travel baseball team.

Huntley Trustee JR Westberg said there were some concerns brought up about having a microbrewery in the same space as youth sports, but ultimately it’s not a concern because the facilities would not be connected.

"I think it's a great idea," Westberg said. "We need some more diversity in terms of establishments and venues to attend."

Trustee Ronda Goldman said owners intend to have historic pictures of Huntley in the space.

"I'm excited," Goldman said. "There are no drawbacks as far as I'm concerned."

Union Special owners could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

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