

# Council approves bonds for potential new distillery

By Randy Patrick

Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 12:42 pm

The Stoli Group, which bought Kentucky Owl Bourbon this year, hasn't decided where to build its new distillery, but Bardstown is making a play for it.

After an hour-long meeting Tuesday night, the Bardstown City Council unanimously approved a resolution to enter into an agreement to offer the company industrial revenue bonds in an amount up to \$149,750 to build and equip a distillery, bottling plant and warehouses in Bardstown.

The city wouldn't be obligated or indebted by the agreement, and the company would repay the bonds through lease payments on the facilities, possibly using the project itself as collateral.

"The company is looking at this location, but they're looking at other locations, and Bardstown has made an offer of an incentive through IRB, and they will take that into consideration," said Jeff McKenzie, an attorney with Bingham Greenebaum Doll of Louisville.

McKenzie and Kim Huston, president of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency, met with the council in closed session and remained while City Attorney Tim Butler read the resolution in open session.

They could not say what other cities are being considered for the new distillery.

In September, the Kentucky Economic Finance Development Authority announced in a report that Bardstown was being considered as the site of the distillery, and the agency gave preliminary approval of \$2 million in state tax incentives should the company locate its facilities in Kentucky.

Huston said at the time that Bardstown and Nelson County have been working on trying to attract the company to Bardstown since last October.