

New life for former Northwest Pipe

(KAIR)--Additional details are released regarding the future of the former Northwest Pipe operation in Atchison.

Late last month it was announced that the facility had been purchased but no immediate word was given publicly about the fate of the operations.

That changed Monday during the special meeting of the Atchison City Commission.

Mayor Allen Reavis, citing a meeting with the new owners, announced that plans are being put in place to reopen the facility, located at the Shannon Industrial Park. "We met with the new owners last Friday," Reavis said. "It will be called Atchison Tubular Services, and they're hoping to have it back open in full operation in the next few weeks. I didn't get an exact number on jobs, but they want to go back to full employment just like it was before, and they're striving to hire back all the people who worked there before, if they can find them."

Reavis commended his county counterparts for their assistance in making the reopening a reality. "Part of this project we worked with the County on, to help make it happen. We had a very good cooperative effort to help fund some of the infrastructure needs out there for the [industrial] park, so we're going to move fiber optic out there and help get it into the park for internet."

The former line pipe energy tubular business was purchased for \$37.2 million, leading to speculation about the fate of the facility.

It has sat vacant since the time it permanently closed in January 2016.

More than 100 jobs were lost with Northwest Pipe's decision to close the Atchison location, citing falling oil prices that affected the demand for the manufacture of oil field equipment, such as that manufactured at the local location.

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