

Pflugerville approves incentive agreement with electric vehicle manufacturer

By Rebecca LaFlure, Community Impact

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PFLUGERVILLE — The Pflugerville City Council voted July 5 to give \$100,000 in economic incentives to an electric vehicle manufacturer that is expected to create 30 local jobs in five years.

Community Cars Inc. plans to move into the Texas Center on Picadilly Court in Pflugerville and begin manufacturing and distributing a line of small, bright yellow electric vehicles for people in wheelchairs. The Pflugerville Community Development Corp. approved the deal June 30.



The Kenguru car

Floyd Akers, interim executive director of the PCDC, said that under the agreement, the company is eligible to receive \$50,000 for rent and capital equipment and another \$50,000 when the first shipment of assembly parts is delivered to Pflugerville. In order to receive the money, Community Cars must have at least eight employees when it begins its daily operations and grow to 15 employees in three years and 30 employees in five years.

Akers said the company already has 400 orders for the vehicles.

"It's a good company on many levels," Akers said. "Not only do the cars cater to people with disabilities, but they have a limited impact on the environment."

Austin lawyer Stacy Zoern founded Community Cars last year and merged it with struggling company Kenguru Services, based in Hungary. The vehicle, called the Kenguru, has a 60-mile range and can reach speeds of up to 25 miles per hour. Drivers in wheelchairs enter the vehicle through a hatch that flips down in the back, and their wheelchair is then secured on the floor.

Zoern was not immediately available for comment.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin