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Meeting Assignment  
Computer 5  
Word Count 402

TUSCALOOSA -- During football season, Alabama fans sometime struggle to find a hotel that is walking distance from Bryant-Denny Stadium. On Nov.6, the Tuscaloosa City Council took one more step on making it possible by unanimously approving the building permit of an Embassy Suites. The new hotel will open on the corner of Greensboro Avenue and University Boulevard.

The Tuscaloosa City Council approved of building designs by the Wilson Hotel Management Group, a division within Kemmons Wilson Companies. The design featured an eight-story building with a fine dining restaurant open to the public.

“There was demand for these rooms,” said McLean Wilson, vice president of Kemmons Wilson Companies. “There was a need for an upper upscale hotel in Tuscaloosa.”

With the opening of the U.S. Federal Courthouse in 2012 and the renovation of the PNC building to apartments set for 2013, the new hotel will add on to the development of the city.

“It is going to be phenomenal,” Councilwoman Cynthia Almond said. “It’ll make downtown more vibrant.”

Although the new Embassy Suites will be a new addition to the city, it will be consistent with the architecture downtown, Almond said. The Wilson Hotel Management Group used a combination of bricks and limestone on the exterior walls of the hotel to attempt to match the Tuscaloosa’s historic downtown district.

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The new addition to the city skyline will take away a familiar spot from the locals and visitors. The Embassy Suites will be developed in the free parking lot on University Boulevard. The parking lot was used for local events such as football games and concerts at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater. However, the people will get used to the change, Almond said.

The new Embassy Suites will start construction in the spring of 2013. The expected completion date will be in the summer of 2014, which will be just in time for football season.

The hotel will have 150 rooms, 5,300 square feet of meeting space, an indoor pool with a large deck, a fine dining restaurant, and many more amenities. Chris Hastings, the owner and executive chief of Hot & Hot Fish Club in Birmingham, will operate the fine dining restaurant, Almond said. Hastings also won Food Network's competition show, "Iron Chef America," in the spring of 2012.

The construction of the hotel is expected to bring 125 jobs to the area. Upon opening, the Embassy Suites expected to hire about 60 full-time employees.