

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS
February 21, 2006

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Dona Stebbins, Bill Beecher, Sandy Hinz, Diane Jovick-Kuntz and John Rosenbaum. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Community Development, Planning, Public Works, Fiscal Services, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Interim Director of Park and Recreation and the City Clerk.

1. ELECTRIC CITY SOCCER PARK UPDATE.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reported that the Electric City Soccer Park Master Plan included 15 soccer fields and amenities and that initial fund-raising efforts targeted the completion of 8 fields.

The voters in Great Falls approved a general obligation bond in the amount of \$2.5 million on November 4, 2003, which led to the design for 8 fields. However, due to the low bids received, it allowed for the completion of 10 fields.

Mr. Rearden added that the City entered into four construction contracts, two of which are completed. The other two (irrigation and compost) were still open.

Kreg Jones, Soccer Foundation, reported that the Foundation raised \$1.1 million in cash contributions and was still seeking in-kind and additional cash contributions. They contracted for on-going turf maintenance and irrigation system operation. He added that the North Parking lot has been paved and the islands curbed; the maintenance building was completed and security system installed; the pavilion plan has been completed and the mowing and playground equipment purchased.

He added that an operating committee to oversee operation of the complex was currently being established.

Finally, he announced that the Foundation was about to launch a capital campaign to complete funding for the pavilion; paving the east parking lot; to initiate the landscaping; and constructing the gazebos and the playground.

2. CITY ATTORNEY PROSECUTORS REPORT.

Kory Larsen, Assistant City Attorney, reported that the City Attorney's office went through some substantial changes in the past year. He explained that there were now two full time prosecutors rather than two half-time prosecutors and there were now three full-time office assistants. The justification for the increased staff was to see better results in the conviction and prosecution rate of DUI offenders and, he reported, the increased staff yielded the desired result. He estimated that the

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conviction rate for DUIs before the additional staff was about 70 percent to 80 percent. That conviction rate has increased to 92 percent.

ADJOURN

There being no further information for the Commission, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of February 21, 2006, at 6:40 p.m.