

**SPECIAL RUGBY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020– 6:30PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND BY GOTOMEETING**

Council Members present: Albrecht, Lunde, Kraft, Bednarz, Berg, and Trottier. Also present were Mayor Steinke, Jim Olson, AE2S, and City Auditor Stewart. Absent were Longie, LaRocque and Attorney Hartl.

Steinke called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Steinke.

Steinke reminded the council that this was a special meeting and the ball diamonds drain tile project was the topic of the meeting.

Bednarz explained that he and Steve Jacobson, B & J Excavating, had looked at the ball diamond grounds this past Saturday. With the current weather they were hopeful that Jacobson could possibly do work on the diamonds this fall yet. Jacobson explained that he has a soil conditioner that attaches to a skid steer, which will windrow the soil and grass. These windrows would be on top of the ground above the drain tile. In the spring this will settle and more dirt may be necessary to level some of the settling that will occur where the tile was installed. After that grass seed could be broadcast. The hope is to save the recreation program for next year.

Jacobson recommended in the future taking one diamond a year and completely leveling it and seeding new grass to improve the diamonds. Completing one diamond a year would ensure that the program could continue each year. However for the time being, just seed grass where there isn't any, where the drain tile has been installed, to maintain the current condition of the grounds.

Kraft explained that the expectations of the current program vary greatly from one council member to another. Bednarz expressed concern that Austin Harles will not return in the spring to finish reconditioning the grounds, prior to the recreation program start.

Steinke clarified that the expectation to Mr. Jacobson this winter would be to scrap more dirt off the grass and windrow it over the installed tile. In the spring then level where the ground has settled and then seed grass.

Jacobson explained that broadcast seeding could be done or hydro seeding. However, the cost to hydro seed would be much more than broadcasting seed. Jacobson explained that he isn't even sure that he wants to put his name on this project.

Jim Olson, AE2S, explained he is in favor of having B & J Excavating level the ground. Olson questioned if any seeding had been done today. Austin Harles, MBF Drain Tile who attended the meeting by phone, explained he seeded fields one and three today, until he ran out of seed. He claimed that this is an initial seeding and that he would have to reseed portions in the spring. He is waiting on a Dingo to finish the work. Olson was not in favor of Harles continuing to work this fall/winter. Harles agreed with Olson. Olson recommended that Harles stop working,

immediately. Harles explained he has all the equipment to fix the fence, so he wanted to know if he should proceed with that. Olson explained that would be the council's decision; however Olson recommended the city have Dakota Fence repair the fence per their quote.

Steinke confirmed with Harles if he has completed grass seeding on fields one and three. He repeated that he had seeded those two fields. Bednarz explained that the estimate from Dakota Fence to repair the fence was \$4,500. Bednarz had also received an estimate from Dakota Fence to repair the entire damaged fence at the ball diamonds, which was not due to Harles. This estimate was \$18,225, which included the \$4,500.

Kraft questioned what a cost per hour would be for Jacobson to windrow the soil and grass. Jacobson explained it is \$135 per hour. Jacobson indicated he would have to try the soil conditioner and see if it would work. He would know in a short time if it will work or not.

Steinke recommended that the council give Jacobson a chance to work on fields two and four to see if the soil conditioner will work. There was a motion by Kraft to allow B & J Excavating to windrow the soil and grass on diamond two and four and if it is working move on to the other diamonds. Second by Bednarz, roll call vote, all voting yes, motion carried.

The council discussed the repair of the chain link fence at the ball diamonds. Kraft feels that if the city is going to deduct \$4,500, for fence repairs, from the payments to Austin Harles, he should be given the opportunity to repair the fence. Bednarz has spoken to two of the former coaches and they agreed that the fence was not in the shape it currently is in when the season ended this past summer. Kraft reviewed that Harles is acknowledging that he has damaged the city fences at the ball diamonds in multiple places. Kraft also explained that the gates on diamond one have been falling apart for years.

Trottier questioned who determines the acceptability of the work to repair the fences? Kraft believes that the Recreation Committee could determine that. Harles offered to repair the gates for the city.

There was a motion by Kraft to allow Austin Harles to repair the fence and fix the gates as well as one post, which requires concrete, which may need to wait until spring. Second by Berg, majority voting for the motion, motion carried.

Lunde recommended that Harles stop this fall/winter and not do any work until spring. Motion by Albrecht that Harles stop dirt work and grass seeding work on the ball diamonds this fall/winter. Bednarz second the motion, majority voting yes, motion carried.

Trottier explained that there is no consistency and no plan that the council is giving it their best guess. Trottier explained he is opposed to continuing with this project until something is in writing.

Steinke explained that in an attempt to save next summer's recreation programs, the council may be able to do that with the assistance of B & J Excavating. Berg explained the willingness of

Steve Jacobson to help out and attempt to make the best of the fields. Berg feels that getting done whatever can be this fall/winter will help make the possibility of a program in the spring.

Bednarz explained that he was disappointed that the sod was cut and rolled up, and then allowed to die. Harles explained that pea rock was in the estimate, not $\frac{3}{4}$ rocks. Albrecht expressed her concerns with the progress of the project when the weather was nice and nothing was being completed.

There being no further business to transact or come before the Council at this time, there was a motion by Albrecht to adjourn the Council Meeting. Second by Trottier all voting yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Susan Steinke, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Stewart, City Auditor

Date Approved