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Spartanburg, District 7 seek financial agreement to keep up Duncan Park

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Spartanburg City Council will consider approving an agreement today outlining financial obligations and other responsibilities of the city and Spartanburg School District 7 for Duncan Park Stadium and the district-owned fields and facilities.

City Community Services Director Mitch Kennedy said the agreement stipulates the responsibilities of the city and District 7 until another agreement on funding for renovations is reached. The district is financing design costs for the renovations.

The district has committed to spend a minimum of \$750,000 toward the renovation of Duncan Park Stadium. Its baseball, softball and cross country teams will play there during and after renovations at the district's fields and facilities. District 7 will have exclusive rights to the stadium except for the American Legion baseball team, which will play during the summer.

Sharing fields

The city reserves the right to program the softball field for community open play, including Little League teams. The district can restrict access to the trails during meets and competitions, but the public will be allowed to use the trails during practice.

The city has spent \$200,000 to renovate the stadium's outfield wall and another \$29,000 to demolish the old wall. The city also has committed another \$550,000 for stadium renovations. It will continue to perform maintenance and ground work for the baseball and softball fields as well as the stadium itself and nature trails.

The district is responsible for maintaining portable toilets and temporary bleachers on the site. The district will have liability insurance covering its use of the facilities, and the city is included as an additional insurer.

The stadium grandstands are excluded from the agreement until code enforcement officers decide the area can be used.

A number of issues must be addressed, including electrical, plumbing and making the stadium handicap accessible.

Council also is expected to award a contract for improvements at Bell Hill on East Main Street, the site of current city offices. City Manager Mark Scott said the economic development and human resource departments, along with additional staff, are moving into the East Main Street office complex. Staff will recommend awarding a contract to Preferred Construction of Columbia, the low bidder on the work at \$36,718.

Rezoning

In other business, council will hold two public hearings, the first on rezoning 11 properties on South Liberty, Bomar and Sunny streets to build a new C.C. Woodson Recreational Center. The properties comprise about 8 acres and will be rezoned from R-6 (general residential) to general institutional district (GID).

Another public hearing will be held on an opportunity for the city to refinance 2002 revenue bonds for the Magnolia Street Parking Garage, with a balance of \$3.49 million set to expire in April 2017. The maturity date would not change, and city staff will solicit bids and determine the best terms for the city. The city will save about \$250,000 if the bonds are refinanced at 4.25 percent, according to city documents.

Council meets at 5:30 p.m. today in council chambers at City Hall.