

City Council

Deal to share historic Duncan Park sealed

Outlines agreement with District 7 to keep up old stadium

By [Lynne P. Shackelford](#)
lynne.shackelford@shj.com

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City Council approved an agreement with Spartanburg School District 7 Monday on each entity's responsibilities pertaining to Duncan Park Stadium.

City Community Services Director Mitch Kennedy said the district asked for clarification for using trails around the park and the softball field in a letter the city received Monday. The district also asked for clarification on its liability.

Council unanimously approved the agreement and authorized City Manager Mark Scott to discuss those issues with the district.

The agreement will remain valid until a renovation and fundraising plan is finalized with the city and school district. Both entities have committed \$750,000 to help with the stadium's renovation, estimated to cost at least \$3 million, and fundraising will likely finance the remainder. The city will use hospitality tax funds to finance its portion.

The city already has paid \$229,000 to demolish the old outfield wall and to erect the new wall to make the field ready for district teams to use this season.

The agreement stipulates that the district has exclusive rights to the stadium, except during the summer when the American Legion

baseball team uses it. The district is entitled to use the field, access gate and concession area.

The district can use the softball field when it isn't used for community sports activities. The district also is allowed to use the nature trails for its cross-country and running teams. It may close the trails during meets and competitions, but not during team practices.

The city will maintain the stadium, fields and trails. The district is responsible for maintaining portable toilets and bleachers at the stadium, and both entities will share utility costs.

The grandstand area was excluded from the agreement. It cannot be used because it does not meet city building code requirements.

The city is allowed to use the district's field and facilities for city-sponsored sports events under the agreement.

In other business, council voted unanimously to spend \$36,718 for improvements to the Bell Hill office building, where all city "development-related" departments will be located.

Columbia-based Preferred Construction was the low bidder. Harvest Group of Spartanburg, with a bid of \$40,000, was the second lowest bidder.

Councilman Junie White asked Assistant City Manager Ed Memmott to review the city procurement procedures so local contractors are preferred over out-of-town contractors, if they are within a few thousand dollars of the low bid.

Scott, when asked by Councilwoman Renee Cariveau, said that he didn't know how long city staff would have offices at Bell Hill

Council approved rezoning 11 properties, comprising about 8 acres, on South Liberty, Bomar and Sunny streets.

The parcels were rezoned from R-6 (general residential) to GID (general institutional district) to prepare for the new C.C. Woodson Recreation Center.

This story appeared in print on page A1