



Executive Summary

City Council Workshop

AGENDA ITEM: 2026 Proposed Field Rental Rates & Requests
PREPARED BY: Jacob Schillander, City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion

Summary:

At our last workshop we discussed rates for the organizations that use the Softball fields and Timpe Field, direction from the Council was to re-coup our water cost for watering Timpe Field, included in the packet is what staff believe to be a fair and equitable way to split that cost between users.

Council Direction Needed:

- Staff would like Council to review and agree with the proposed rates.

City staff recently met with representatives from the Orono Baseball Association (OBA), Orono High School baseball/softball programs, and the Diamond Devils to discuss field use, facility enhancements, and potential donor/booster-funded capital improvements. The groups expressed significant interest in contributing privately funded upgrades to City-owned athletic facilities.

This Executive Summary outlines non-operational, policy-level requests that require Council direction before staff can proceed. Operational matters (field maintenance, scheduling, etc.) are excluded.

1. Donor-Funded Capital Improvements

A. New Batting Cage at Tempe Field (Fully Donor-Funded)

A private donor intends to fund a new covered batting cage near the existing cage at Tempe Field.

City asked to provide: site approval, review, and authorization for construction on City property.

Council Direction Needed:

- Should the City accept this donor-funded improvement on City property?

2. Booster-Funded Enhancements

A. Scoreboard Replacement (~\$35,000)

Boosters are prepared to raise funds for a modern scoreboard, potentially including sponsor advertising panels. The city already has \$10,000 that was donated towards the purchase of a scoreboard.

Council Direction Needed:

- Does Council support booster-funded scoreboard replacement?
- Should sponsorship/advertising be allowed on the scoreboard, and under what standards?

B. Field Lighting (Concept-Stage)

Boosters expressed interest in exploring a fundraising effort for field lights.

Council Direction Needed:

- Is the City supportive of installing field lighting?

C. Windscreen Replacement

Groups are interested in replacing worn-out windscreens, with boosters potentially funding some of the cost, and providing the labor to put them up.

Council Direction Needed:

- Should the City participate in cost sharing?

3. Long-Term Facility Concepts (Exploratory)

A. Covered Grandstand with Potential Amenities

Boosters discussed, at a conceptual level, a long-term grandstand project that could include integrated restrooms or concession space.

Council Direction Needed:

- Would the City be open to exploring a privately funded grandstand concept?

4. Sponsorship & Advertising Policy Requests

High school and OBA representatives requested clarity on the City's policies for sponsor banners, player posters, scoreboard advertising, and fundraising tied to sponsorship rights. I have included the current policy we have on record in regard to advertising.

Council Direction Needed:

- Does the Council want to modify or change the current policy on record?

5. Storage & Facility Access

A. Storage Shed at Rainbow Fields

Softball representatives requested a small shed for rake and equipment storage.

Council Direction Needed:

- Does the council want to allow this?

6. Projects for Spring

We have a few projects slated for this spring

- Replacing the Dugout Roofing
- Replacing the Line Drive Fencing on the dugouts