

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	February 24, 2014
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>Roll Call No.</b> <b>Communication No.</b> <b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>6</b> <b><u>14-0261</u></b> <b><u>14-066</u></b> <b>Benjamin R. Page, Park &amp; Recreation Director and Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Authorization to submit a Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy (RISE) grant application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the James W. Cownie Baseball Park Improvements.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval for the City Manager to submit a RISE grant application to fund the James W. Cownie Baseball Park Improvements. The current parking lot does not have the capacity to support the use of the baseball facility. The RISE grant will help fund the roadway to a future additional parking lot.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$250,000 RISE grant application for an overall project cost estimated at \$1,200,000.

This project is a collaborative effort. In addition to possible RISE funding, other state, Polk County, and private dollars are being sought. The City funding for the project is limited to \$200,000. The other sources of funds are required in order to build the project.

Funding Source: 2013-2014 CIP, Page Park – 17, Sports Complexes, PS176

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The James W. Cownie Baseball Park has become a premier destination for Little League and adult baseball events. The existing parking lot for the Cownie Baseball facility has capacity for approximately 230 vehicles. Currently, the number of visitors far exceeds the capacity of the existing parking lot. When parking demand exceeds capacity of the existing parking lots, patrons illegally park along SE 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, including on the recreation trail that parallels the street. During high use events parking has spilled over into the residential developments. This results in vehicles and pedestrians entering and exiting the travel portion of SE 22<sup>nd</sup> Street from uncontrolled points which presents major safety concerns.

A new parking lot with capacity for approximately 170 vehicles is proposed to be constructed on the west side of the complex. The new roadway will provide access to the planned parking lot. The new parking lot and roadway will allow for additional safe, legal parking for users of the baseball complex

and eliminate the current safety concerns of users of the facility, pedestrians, residents, and the traveling public caused by the present parking situation.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: June 24, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1017](#)

Action: [Authorization](#) to proceed with design of a parking lot for the James W. Cownie Baseball Facility. Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: June 24, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1016](#)

Action: [Request](#) from Council Member Brian Meyer to discuss parking lot at the Cownie Baseball Park. Moved by Meyer to refer to the City Manager for review and recommendation and to consider additional police presence at SE 22<sup>nd</sup> and Hartford during busy times. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Execute RISE agreement and normal Council actions for capital improvement projects.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).