

COUNCIL AGENDA: JANUARY 21, 2014

PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: CITY ATHLETIC FIELDS LIGHTING FEE

SOURCE: PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: This is the time and place set forth for the public hearing in consideration of the City athletic fields lighting fee. The current fee structure of \$15 per night for City athletic field lighting usage was adopted in 1994. Due to the length of time the current fee has been in place, coupled with new rates from Southern California Edison (SCE), and the installation of the new softball field lighting at the Sports Complex, staff has determined that those factors necessitate an evaluation of the rate structure. Staff surveyed the athletic field lighting fees of seven other local City agencies and found that Porterville is the only agency with a fee that is not set by an hourly rate.

Staff recently met with SCE to explore rate options. Available records indicate the City has been on a General Service Rate Schedule (GS-2) which serves medium-sized commercial and industrial customers with demands above 20 kilowatts (kW) and below 200 kW. The City qualified to transition to an AL-2 rate. The AL-2 is a money-saving energy plan for outdoor area lighting customers who use electricity from dusk to dawn, other than street and highway lighting.

The five City-owned athletic fields with lights include: Burton Ballfields, Pioneer Middle School Field, Hayes Field, Sports Complex Football Field, and Sports Complex Softball Fields. Below is a cost per hour comparison of lighting a field on the GS-2 rate, and the projected cost per hour using the new AL-2 rate. Projected savings range from 53-90% per facility.

	GS-2 Rate	Projected AL-2 Rate
Burton Ballfields	\$12.67	\$6.00
Pioneer Middle School	\$23.32	\$4.00
Hayes Field	\$50.01	\$5.00
Sports Complex Football Field	\$59.77	\$10.00
Sports Complex Softball Diamonds	---	\$7.00

24 Director

MS Appropriated/Funded

[Signature] City Manager

ITEM NO.: 15

The lighting cost per hour is calculated by multiplying the number of fixtures by 1.564 (avg. kW per fixture) by the current kW rate. SCE rate plans fluctuate as does the hourly rate.

The SCE rates do not reflect the total cost that the City incurs when lighting a field. Staff is required to physically operate the lights. Bulb replacement is also needed, resulting in an extra lighting maintenance expenditure. The City does not own a boom truck that extends high enough to replace the bulbs at 70', so a truck has to be rented for staff to do the bulb replacement. These additional costs are considered when determining fees.

The Parks and Leisure Services Commission discussed the item at their November 7, 2013, and December 5, 2013, Commission meetings. All current organizations that use a City athletic field were notified of the Parks and Leisure Services meetings that included discussion of this topic. They were also notified of tonight's Public Hearing.

The Parks and Leisure Services Commission and staff recommend a three-year fee schedule to allow for leagues to adjust their budgets accordingly. A similar method was applied when the parking fee plan at the Sports Complex was implemented. The recommended fee was determined by taking into consideration the comparison of other agencies and the new AL-2 rate. The recommended fee schedule for youth is \$6 per hour year one, \$8 per hour year two, and \$10 per hour year three and beyond. To follow past Council direction regarding cost recovery being more for adult programs than youth, the Commission and staff recommend \$10 per hour year one, \$12 per hour year two, and \$14 per hour year three and beyond for adult program usage.

All athletic field light users currently pay \$15 per night. Using the recommended fee, leagues and individual teams can anticipate modifications to the current fee; for example, teams using the lights for two hours would pay \$12 (or \$3 less per use) during year one for youth programs, and \$20 (or \$5 more) for adult programs.

If the recommended fees are adopted, staff will revisit the athletic field lighting fee for evaluation with City Council after year three to determine if fees need adjusting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing to solicit comment on the proposed City athletic field lighting fee plan; and

2. Provide direction to staff regarding the City athletic field lighting fee.

ATTACHMENT:

Athletic field lighting fees for other valley agencies.

LIGHT FEES

	PER HOUR		PER DAY
LINDSAY	\$45	*	\$0
REEDLEY	\$25		\$0
VISALIA	\$25		\$0
SELMA	\$20	**	\$0
TULARE	\$11-17		\$0
BAKERSFIELD	\$13		\$0
FRESNO	\$10		\$0
PORTERVILLE	\$0		\$15
* INCLUDES FIELD AND LIGHTS			
** 2HR. MIN FIELD AND LIGHTS			