

COUNCIL AGENDA: DECEMBER 17, 2013

SUBJECT: INTENT TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADJUSTMENT OF CITY ATHLETIC FIELD LIGHTING FEE

SOURCE: PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: 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, along with the timing of the new softball diamond lights being installed at the Sports Complex, staff thought it would be a good time to evaluate the current athletic field lighting fee. Porterville is the only agency of those surveyed whose lighting fee is not set by the hour.

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 will also be notified of the date of the 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, similar to when the parking fee plan at the Sports Complex was implemented. The recommended fee schedule for youth is \$6 per hour year one, \$8 per hour year two, and \$10 per hour year three. To follow past Council direction regarding cost recovery being more for adult programs than youth, staff recommends \$10 per hour year one, \$12 per our year two, and \$14 per hour year three for adult program usage. All athletic field light users currently pay \$15 per night. The average amount of time a user utilizes the lights is three hours. At the proposed rate, the cost during year one would be \$18 (or \$3 more per use) for youth programs, and \$15 more for adult programs that last an average of three hours.

SCE rate plans fluctuate as does the hourly rate. Staff will revisit the athletic field lighting fee for evaluation after year three.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council set a Public Hearing for January 21, 2014, to allow for public comments and to consider adjusting the City athletic fields lighting fee.

DJ Director MB Appropriated/Funded J City Manager

ITEM NO. 7