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TOP STORY

City approves amendment to amphitheater costs

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Heavy equipment parked in November 2022 at Cam-plex Park, as ground clearing for an amphitheater was underway at Cam-plex Park.

Ed Glazar

The Gillette City Council approved an amendment to an agreement with the county and Campbell County Public Land Board to allow for more flexibility when it comes to spending dollars allocated toward the

amphitheater site project.

The city and county have dedicated \$750,000 each to the amphitheater site at Cam-plex Park, that will be used for the International Pathfinders Camporee. This \$1.5 million must only be spent on the amphitheater project, per an agreement approved in the summer of 2022.

If the county also approves this amendment, the land board will be able to use some of the remaining money to cover other costs associated with the amphitheater.

Last summer, the city, county and land board approved an agreement where the city and county would split \$1.5 million evenly for the amphitheater site at Cam-plex Park. This was a revision from the original agreement, which called for the city and county to split the amphitheater costs up to \$1.7 million, or \$850,000 each, and up to \$600,000 — \$300,000 each — for other costs.

During a Friday special meeting called by the city, Cam-plex Executive Director Aaron Lyles said that the whole project is going to come in at about \$2.2 million. Per the agreement, all of the money from the city and county must be spent on the amphitheater.

The Campbell County Public Land Board has applied for a state grant for \$750,000. If it's successful, this money will be put toward the project, and the land board will "realize" \$300,000 in savings, Lyles said.

But this money can't be used for anything but the amphitheater, which is why the land board is asking for the agreement to be amended.

Darin Edmonds, chair of the Public Land Board, said the amendment would clean up the agreement, which "wasn't amended properly," and allow Cam-plex to use \$300,000 to cover other costs, the biggest one being a service road to the amphitheater.

All of this is predicated upon Cam-plex getting the state grant.

“Without that grant coming through, we don’t have money for all those other items,” Lyles said.

The city approved the amendment unanimously. The county commissioners have not yet taken action on this amendment, but county administrative director Denton Knapp said they are in support of it.

The city also agreed to waive \$36,179 in meter costs and the plant investment fee for the irrigation system out at Cam-plex Park.

Councilwoman Trish Simonson said that since the city has done this in the past for other groups, “I would be OK with waiving these fees.”

The city will use money from its general fund to offset those costs, said City Administrator Hyun Kim.

Jonathan Gallardo