



DATE: September 10, 2024

TO: President and Honorable Board Members,
Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation

THROUGH: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

FROM: Arturo Marquez, CEcD, Ms. Econ
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Whataburger Field Capital Improvement Project
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CAPTION:

Motion to approve a project in an amount not to exceed \$137,260 for improvements to Whataburger Field with funding available in FY 2025 from the Type A Business and Job Development Fund.

SUMMARY:

This motion would approve allocation of funding for capital improvement projects to Whataburger Field; to include netting extension for Player Development League (PDL) compliance, pedestrian concrete remediation, steel support remediation, concourse concrete remediation, and seat replacements.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Since the 2021 season, Major League Baseball (MLB) has assumed the role of governing body overseeing minor league baseball, also known as the Player Development League (PDL). Under the previous governance of the National Association of Baseball, there were no facility standards in place. With this shift, MLB has introduced new standards for minor league baseball facilities to improve operations and consistency across teams.

All 120 license holders, including the Corpus Christi Hooks, are required to adhere to these enhanced standards to foster a more uniform workplace environment throughout the minor leagues. This standardization is expected to promote longer-term commitments from MLB teams, minimize the risk of team relocations, and secure the long-term presence of professional baseball in communities, generating lasting local impact.

MLB has implemented a tiered grading system to assess facility compliance, requiring facilities to meet specific scoring thresholds over a three-year period:

2023: 30 points or fewer
2024: 20 points or fewer
2025 and beyond: 10 points or fewer

Recent renovations, funded by Type A funding, have helped Whataburger Field meet some of the baseline requirements of this new grading system.

To maintain compliance and uphold standards, several new projects have been identified for Whataburger Field. These projects include the extension of protective netting as required by the PDL amendment, which mandates netting beyond the current area down each of the foul lines. Additional work includes steel support remediation for the videoboard, replacing eroded steel supports for both the videoboard and signage cabinet. Pedestrian safety is also a focus, with planned concrete remediation in high-traffic areas to prevent tripping hazards. Furthermore, 11 locations within the seating bowl have been identified for concourse concrete remediation due to deterioration.

Any remaining funds after these projects will be allocated toward a Hooks-funded project to replace 1,751 seats across seven sections of the stadium. These sections contain the last of the original seats, which are prone to breakage due to a flawed design. As the manufacturer is no longer in business, replacement stock is unavailable.

The new seats will match the design and model of the other sections in the stadium, ensuring consistency in seat inventory and appearance across the ballpark.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board could choose not to approve these projects or to make recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The financial impact would be \$137,260 from fund 1140.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	1140- Business & Job Development
Organization/Activity:	15010- Major Business Development
Mission Element:	57- Economic Development
Project # (CIP Only):	
Account:	530000- Professional Services

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends approval for the Whataburger Field upgrades.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Agreement
PowerPoint Presentation- Hooks Capital Improvements