



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation Meeting of October 18, 2021

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**DATE:** October 5, 2021

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

**FROM:** Neiman Young, PhD, Assistant City Manager  
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<b>Whataburger Field Capital Improvement Project</b>
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**CAPTION:**

Motion approving a project in an amount not to exceed \$701,800 for improvements to Whataburger Field with funding available in FY 2022 from the Type A Business and Job Development Fund.

**SUMMARY:**

This motion would approve a project for modifications required by the Major League Baseball (MLB) to be made at Whataburger Field to include field lights and a new women's clubhouse area.

**BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

Since the 2021 season, MLB has operated as the new governing body overseeing minor league baseball (also known as the Player Development League, or PDL). The previous governing body, the National Association of Baseball, did not have facility standards in place. With the shift in management, the MLB has created standards for minor league baseball facilities.

All 120 license holders (including the Corpus Christi Hooks) are subject to the enhanced standards to create a more consistent environment across all of the minor league teams. This standardization of facility assets also will attract longer-term commitments from MLB teams, reduce the potential for a minor league team to move markets, and stabilize the professional baseball's footprint for long-term community impact.

To measure facility compliance, the MLB has created a tiered grading scale that requires facilities to achieve specific scores over a 3-year term.

- 2023 – 30 points or less
- 2024 – 20 points or less
- 2025 & beyond – 10 points or less

Recent renovations supported by Type A funding has helped Whataburger Field meet some of the base measurements of this new grading scale. However, additional investment is needed to bring the Corpus Christi Hooks into compliance.

The total amount requested for these improvements to Whataburger Field is an amount not to exceed \$1,076,000. At this time, funding totaling \$701,800 was allocated on August 30, 2021, for Whataburger Field improvement, and the scope of work is to upgrade the field lighting requirement, construct a new women's personnel clubhouse, and renovate the visitor's clubhouse.

Once the FY 2021 Small Business Projects contracts close out, City staff anticipates another \$200,000 to \$250,000 to be available to allocate to this project - further closing the remaining gap of funding. A request for additional funding will be brought to the Type A Board for consideration after the final contract payments for the Small Business Projects are made in January 2022.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The Type A Board could choose not to approve the project or make modifications to the recommendation.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The financial impact includes expenditures not exceeding \$701,800 in Fund 1140 Business and Job Development Fund.

### **Funding Detail:**

Fund:	1140 – Business & Job Development
Organization/Activity:	15010 – Major Business Development
Mission Element:	707 – Economic Development
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	530000 – Professional Services

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City staff recommends approval for Whataburger Field upgrades.

### **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

PowerPoint Presentation – Hooks Capital Improvements