

**LARAMIE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
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Regular meeting of the Laramie City Council was called to order by Mayor Williams at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed present: Joe Shumway, Erik Stone, Dan Furphy, Tom Gaddis, Bob Bell, Joel Coffey, E.G. Meyer and Dave Williams. Absent: Trudy McCracken.

Staff present: Gary Rimington, Acting City Manager/Community Services Director; Hugh McFadden, City Attorney; Sue Morris-Jones, City Clerk; Bill Ware, Police Chief; and Mike Carlson, Fire Chief; and Malea Brown, Finance Officer. Absent: Harry LaBonde, Interim City Manager/Public Works Director.

CHANGES IN AGENDA

MOTION BY MEYER, seconded by Stone: that the contract in Consent Agenda Item 3P be amended to refer to a "compensation" rather than "salary" study; that Item 3L become Item 9 on the Regular Agenda, and the following items be renumbered accordingly; that Items 6 and 7 be reversed and renumbered; and that Council add to Item 6, and acknowledge receipt of, letters from: Fred Homer, Amy Sunshine Moon, Anni Nordin and Jeanette Reisenburg; Roger and Jeanie Schlump; David Gregory and Adrienne Szabady; Kenneth and Lenore Diem; Robert Field and Ricki Klages; and Jon Modell and Ginnie Madsen

Roll call vote showed all members voting ayes; nays, none. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY MEYER, seconded by Gaddis: that the Consent Agenda be approved and that each specific action be approved as indicated:

- 3A. Approve the Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of November 07, 2000 and Public Hearing of November 14, 2000, and have them placed on file for public inspection;
- 3B. Accept the Cemetery Deeds for November 1-15, 2000, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and have them recorded in the office of the County Clerk;
- 3C. Acknowledge receipt of the long- and short-term investments report of 10/31/2000;
- 3D. Acknowledge receipt of the Minutes of the Laramie Plains Civic Center Joint Powers Board meetings of October 10 and November 14, 2000;
- 3E. Acknowledge receipt of the minutes of the 1997 Capital Facilities Tax Joint Powers Board meeting of September 14, 2000;
- 3F. Acknowledge receipt of Minutes of Laramie Planning Commission meeting of September 05, 2000;
- 3G. Acknowledge receipt of Minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of November 09, 2000, and that the following recommendations be approved:
 - 1. install a temporary reserved handicapped parking space directly in front of 559 5th Street;
 - 2. amend the Suggested School Routing Plan for Spring Creek School and make the intersection at 13th & Steele Streets a 4-way stop;
- 3H. Acknowledge receipt of the Minutes of the Board of Health meeting of October 30, 2000;
- 3I. Acknowledge receipt of the Minutes of the Parks/Tree & Recreation Advisory Board meeting of November 08, 2000;
- 3J. Acknowledge receipt of the Code Administration Division Monthly Report - October 2000;
- 3K. Approve Change Order No. 2, Three Sons, LLC contract to increase the contract price in the amount of \$24,623.81 (new contract price: \$359,758.76), and extend the Contract Time by seven days to 20 September 2000;
- 3M. Approve the Lease/Purchase Agreement, 2-year term, for new dump truck in the Street Division with First Interstate Bank of Wyoming, in the amount of \$49,000.00, and authorize the Mayor to sign;
- 3N. Approve the Loan Agreement, Promissory Note, and Assignment of Pledges and Revenues, in the amount of \$1,811,500.00, for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan to fund 11 water fund projects;
- 3O. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Albany County for fire protection coverage assistance with Rural Fire District #1 expansion of the district's boundaries;
- 3P. Approve the contract with Lee and Burgess Associates of Colorado for the city employee compensation

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- study, in the amount of \$10,000.00. (Budget: \$10,000);
- 3Q. Acknowledge receipt of EPA Certificate of Excellence from U.S. EPA, Region 8 Public Water System Program for perfect compliance in meeting the "total coliform" rule for drinking water quality;
- 3R. Acknowledge receipt of the 11/02/2000 letter from Don Owens, Albany County School District One Transportation Department, thanking Street Division for excellent service during recent snowstorm;
- 3S. Acknowledge receipt of the 10/31/2000 letters from U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. reporting that HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs has recognized University Heights and Rainbow Vista of Laramie, WY as two of its high performing properties;
- 3T. Acknowledge receipt of letters from Wendy Bredehoft, State Historic Preservation Officer; Bart and Kiandra Geerts; Diana Marie Hill-Chavez; and Margaret Mains opposing a large building in Undine Park;
- 3U. Schedule the following meeting in Council Chambers, City Hall:
1. Special Meeting for Executive Session on personnel, Tuesday, December 12, 2000, 7:00 p.m.

Roll call vote showed all members voting ayes, nays; none; Furphy abstaining on Item 3M. Absent: McCracken.
MOTION CARRIED.

REGULAR AGENDA

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER, 2000, BY MADER TSCHACHER PETERSON & CO.

City Finance Officer Malea Brown said that most of the funds are progressing according to schedule. The Wastewater Fund exceeded its budget by 97% due to the interest on the plant, which is funded by the CFT, not being amended in the budget. Mr. Meyer said that the Capital Facilities Tax Joint Powers Board will meet December 10, and a request for payment of this interest should be submitted to the Board before then.

MOTION BY MEYER, seconded by Gaddis: that Council acknowledge receipt of the October, 2000, monthly financial report by Mader Tschacher Peterson & Co.

MOTION CARRIED on voice vote.

ORIGINAL ORDINANCE NO. 1535, FILL OPEN EXCAVATED SPACES. INTRODUCED BY COFFEY.

The City Clerk read Original Ordinance No. 1535 by title only:

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE EMPTY EXCAVATIONS ON PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY TO BE FILLED; AND PROVIDING A GRACE PERIOD.

MOTION BY COFFEY, seconded by Stone: that Original Ordinance No. 1535 Do Pass First Reading.

Mr. Coffey said this ordinance is to take care of situations such as the lot downtown that has had an empty hole on it for about 12 years. This ordinance provides a five-year grace period on existing excavations like the one downtown. After the grace period, if the property is not restored, the property can be declared a nuisance and the owner incur daily fines until the property is restored. Mr. Coffey asked that staff contact the owner of the property downtown and inform him of this ordinance so it does not come as a surprise sometime in the future.

Roll call vote showed all members voting ayes, nays, none. Absent: McCracken. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-25, APPROVE UNDINE PARK AS THE LOCATION FOR A NEW ENCLOSED ICE SKATING RINK FACILITY.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 2000-25 in its entirety:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE UNDINE PARK AS THE LOCATION FOR A NEW ENCLOSED ICE SKATING RINK FACILITY.

WHEREAS, the Laramie City Council, the Laramie Amateur Hockey Club, Inc. (Hockey Club), and

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Laramie Citizens recognize that since the 1930's Undine Park has been, and continues to be, the home of ice skating in Laramie; and

WHEREAS, the Hockey Club is proposing to construct an enclosed ice skating rink facility in the southeast portion of Undine Park in Laramie, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the Hockey Club has developed a financing package including numerous community donations to construct an enclosed ice skating rink; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Laramie does hereby resolve that Undine Park is the preferred location of the new enclosed ice rink facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hockey Club shall incorporate features into the project which will mitigate the neighborhood's concerns. Such features will include landscaping, building setbacks, adequate off-street parking, and a brick ledge for future building enhancements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Laramie does hereby direct the Mayor to execute the Lease of Park for Ice Sports Facility which was previously approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of June 20, 2000, provided that the Hockey Club agrees to certain project features to mitigate neighborhood concerns.

DULY ADOPTED in open meeting by the Laramie City Council this 21st day of November, 2000.

MOTION BY BELL, seconded by Stone: that Resolution No. 2000-25 be approved, and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign.

Mr. Bell said that after all the meetings and public hearings in which this facility has been discussed, there should be no misconceptions about what Roof the Rink means, about the size of the building, its location in Undine Park, or its purpose. Somehow the public was given the idea that the building would be an unsightly red, but that is untrue; it would be dark green to coordinate with the park. This resolution provides that a brick ledge be installed in the foundation wall to allow a brick or rock veneer to be added to the building in the future. The building should be located in the southeast quadrant of that four-block area to provide separation between residences and the building and to allow landscaping around the facility. There could be two rows of Colorado blue spruce trees planted around the building, which would virtually hide that building. In addition, the foundation wall could be raised to allow the landscaping to be bermed up around the building so it does not appear as tall.

Mr. Bell pointed out that there are trees in Undine Park that exceed the proposed height of this building. If a good landscaping job is done, this facility would be aesthetically pleasing. He said that people have expressed concern about potential noise, but the skating will take place in an enclosed facility and that should not be a problem. People have also asked about light pollution, but there should be none as the lighting will be inside the building. As for concerns about parking, there are 51 off-street parking space proposed, and the parking lot should be landscaped. Mr. Bell pointed out that there is really no change in use from what is going on in Undine Park now. There has been ice skating in Undine Park for decades, and there have been several configurations of the rink. There was once a 20-foot tall wooden stockade around the rink, which was then located where the tennis courts are now. There are huge advantages to keeping the rink where it is: it is centrally located and kids can walk to the facility from most areas in town; it is easily accessible, so no new roads will have to be paved; and he believes it will enhance property values in that neighborhood. Mr. Bell stated that City Council should give strong consideration to keeping the facility at this site despite the controversy, and cited many examples of past proposals that proved advantageous to the City that were approved despite strong public opposition. He repeated his opinion that Undine Park is the best site for this facility and Council should make this decision now. It is only fair to the Roof the Rink Committee to make that decision now and to work to mitigate the concerns of the neighbors as this resolution attempts to do. As a businessman, he believes this proposal is the best deal available.

Mr. Stone said that Mr. Bell made many excellent points. The Council has made many requests of the Roof the Rink Committee over the past year, and they have complied. He does not feel that the Committee has tried to be deceptive, either in terms of their name or their aims; the original goals of the Committee have never changed. Concerns residents have expressed about the noise, light pollution, and looks of the proposed facility, also apply to the present facility, but he feels that Undine Park is a good location for the ice rink. All possible locations for the rink may not have been fully considered, but he feels that Council owes it to the group of citizens that have worked so hard to take action that will allow them have ice next season. The location does not necessarily have to be Undine Park, but the project should be put on a fast track if this resolution does not pass. He proposes that, if this resolution does not pass, a site selection committee be put together to come back to Council within 45 days with a recommendation. He commends the Committee for trying to make a better city.

Mr. Furphy has asked several Roof the Rink people about looking at a new location, and they are receptive to that. The

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problem with a different site is the additional cost and they do not feel they will be able to raise more money, so the options seem to be: the City comes up with more money, the facility be built in Undine Park, or there be no rink. He feels the only place the City can afford to do this is in Undine Park, so he will vote for this resolution.

Mr. Shumway said that the City would have to pay the difference between the \$43,000 cost to leave the chiller at its present location, and the \$150,000 required to move the chiller if a new site is chosen. Leaving the chiller where it is at Undine Park and piping the coolant to the new location will take up about 10-15% of the park, and the off-street parking will take up about 10% of the park. There are seven recreational uses at the park that this would alter, but no site study or parking study has been done. He suggests it would be better to find a location where there is no controversy. It is important to take the time to do this right.

Mr. Coffey said the city needs an ice rink. This whole discussion boils down to finances, and he has faith in the numbers the Roof the Rink Committee has put together. He is concerned about other potential locations, and can only see one, LaBonte Park, that would fit the budget that the Roof the Rink people have put together. A softball field would have to be moved, but the timing of moving that field has not been pinned down. Mr. Coffey pointed out that plans have to be finalized as soon as possible in order to utilize the Roof the Rink financial package. He hopes that the future City Council will not take money from other City departments for this, and the only other way to finance this project would be the Capital Facilities Tax. He feels that Council needs to further consider this proposal, but concurs with Mr. Stone's position that this should be done in as short a time as possible. He is not willing to take Undine Park off the table, since no other location is ready. Mr. Coffey feels that an advantage to locating the rink at LaBonde Park is that maybe the road that runs through the park could finally be paved.

Mr. Gaddis said that for a long time, Council has listened to everything that has been said on this. He expressed sympathy for the Roof the Rink people, saying that anybody who has brought out a proposal in the last three or four years has run into opposition. Roof the Rink is providing a third and the City two-thirds of the financing for this project, and the new City Council will have to find the City's share, so they should be involved in deciding on the site. He thinks that putting a metal building in a developed park in a developed old neighborhood is a bad precedent. There is a lot of underdeveloped property in Laramie that could possibly be used, and he would not like to place this building in Undine Park unless other sites have been studied and eliminated, and that has not been done. The next Council will have to decide on any variances and future funding, so he agrees with Mr. Stone's proposal to take another month and a half to decide on the best location for the rink. Mr. Gaddis does not feel that Undine Park is the ideal site; it is hard to find and there is no room to expand the facility in the future without destroying the park. He cannot support the resolution until more effort has been made to identify the best site.

Mr. Bell pointed out that the resolution states that Undine Park is the "preferred" location for the new ice rink facility, but the new Council could change its mind. If another location is not identified in the next 30-60 days, the rink will be placed in Undine Park. The resolution does not say that Undine Park is the only location for the park, but passing it will allow Roof the Rink to order the building and move the project forward to avoid losing in-kind contributions. He said that "foot dragging" could cause this project to fail.

Mr. Gaddis does not feel that appointing a committee is "foot dragging." Two things in the resolution bother him: 1) Locating the rink in the southeast portion of Undine Park; if the rink is to be left in the park, the best site would be where it is now; 2) Committing over \$400,000 without knowing who will own the facility and when. Mr. Gaddis said there is a lot of work left to do, but that does not mean that Roof the Rink cannot break ground in time to get the facility done without this resolution. He feels the resolution is counterproductive at this point.

Mr. Shumway noted that there is also on tonight's agenda a resolution to establish a committee to research alternate ice rink facility sites. If it is decided that Undine Park is not the preferred location, a site will still be found by January 1. He does not believe that the cost will rise from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million in that time, and feels that Council needs to look at other options and not rush into this.

Mr. Meyer said that this is a cost/benefit analysis situation where no one will end up totally happy. As to cost, the City will have about \$250,000 less in severance tax money next year due to legislative action, so operating costs also need to be looked at. He feels the rink is needed and this resolution has merit, but it is premature. He favors establishing the site research committee that would make a report in 45 days, and then making the decision.

Mr. Gaddis does not believe that this is only about money; peoples' attitudes towards each other also need to be factored in. He hopes the site committee will look at more than just the bottom line. Mr. Stone agreed, saying he hopes that if another site is selected, which will be more expensive, everyone will help with fundraising.

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Roger Schlump, 1104 S. 5th Street, said he met with Parks and Recreation Manager Paul Harrison and was told that the chiller will have to be moved even if the new facility is located in Undine Park, so that cost will be about the same wherever the rink is located. He listed several technical reasons for the cost of moving the rink to LaBonte Park being less than building the facility at Undine Park. He also gave the technical reason for the idea of using the rink for other functions being expensive or impossible. Mr. Schlump pointed out that besides the lower cost and the fact that LaBonte is already headed toward becoming a sports park, locating the rink at LaBonde Park would result in a central location with ease of access, available parking, close proximity to City Parks and utilities shops for maintenance purposes, and better compatibility with the look of the park. He believes Laramie needs a new ice rink and is willing to work on the site committee on behalf on the Friends of Undine Park.

Mark Long, 801 S. 11th Street, quoted from the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Laramie passed by Council on February 7, 1995. The attitude of Council at that time appeared to be that new development in the tree area should be "architecturally consistent with the older homes that make the area unique" and compatible with adjacent land uses. Mr. Long said that a comprehensive business plan is essential to the success of any project, but he believes this project is not well planned and is undercapitalized. This is the third attempt in five years to build a covered rink, but he is not aware of anyone dedicating the hundreds of hours it takes to do a comprehensive feasibility study and business plan. Community Services Director Gary Rimington is not aware of any business plan done by Roof the Rink, but said that his office has done some conservative financial estimates and this is a "bare bones" project. Mr. Long feels that the capital is not there right now to construct or maintain this facility, and that the risk should be borne by ice rink users. He does not think an enclosed rink structure of any type should be built in Undine Park, and believes the City should reconsider the possible 40-year commitment for this facility.

Mr. Bell said that, in relation to the Land Use Element, there was never any proposal to change the use of Undine Park; it has been a skate park for a number of years and would continue to be one. The park is loaded with trees, and it is proposed to surround the facility with trees, so from that standpoint it would be compatible with the park.

Leslie Irving, 819 S. 7th Street, said that the whole Undine Park neighborhood has bonded together to oppose the new building. They feel that the industrial size and appearance of the building conflicts with the residential area and would change the character of the tree area forever. She repeated objections that have been made several times before in regard to conflict with the Comprehensive Plan for Laramie Parks and Recreation and the Land Use Element, saying the change of use to a multi-use facility would bring business, traffic and parking problems, noise and light pollution, and interference with local schools' use of the park. She said the publicity generated by this controversy could help Roof the Rink raise funds to place the ice rink in a new location. Undine Park was Laramie's first park, and the Historic Society and the Albany County Historic Preservation both strongly feel that the park is worth preserving. About 90% of the homeowners in a two-block radius of the park oppose the structure and over 600 people all over the city have signed a petition opposing it. Ms. Irving said there are alternative viable sites for this structure. Friends of Undine Park are not against the rink, and are willing to help find another location.

Robert Field, 907 S. 7th Street, said that a structure as large as the proposed building should not be placed in a park the size of Undine, and he showed Council an illustration of the size of the building. Undine Park is a neighborhood park (5 to 10 acres) that should be developed in accordance with neighborhood preferences. Community parks (15 to 50 acres) are noted as being suitable for indoor facilities. For a facility the size of the proposed covered ice rink, a park of 30 acres is recommended; that is three times the size of Undine Park.

Gail Gordon, 801 S. 11th Street, who works in economic development around Wyoming, agrees with those who feel that there has not been an adequate feasibility study or business plan done for this facility. Before a feasibility study is done, other studies on the impact on the neighborhood, a traffic study, and economic impact study should be done. Ms. Gordon believes it is important to put some time into doing the necessary studies before construction.

Chris Sherwood, 2165 Polk Street, said he plays hockey at Undine Park. He believes the ice rink would be great for youth sports. He said that if people looked at the positive side of things, they might see this differently.

Tony Ricca, 1001 S. 7th Street, hopes that Council will consider all the facts and feelings expressed when they make their decision. He hopes for a decision that will bring the community together and be in its best interests.

Mark Garcia, 1658 Edward Drive, said he has been involved in ice hockey for eight years. He said that people are talking about increased noise and traffic pollution, but the game schedule would not be any different than it has in past years. Many groups besides the hockey club use the facility, but this should be done for the kids.

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Vianne Westbrook, 815 S. 3rd Street, said her family owns two commercial and three residential properties within two blocks of Undine Park but they were not contacted by the people opposing the ice rink. She spoke about the historic use of Undine Park for ice skating and the extensive volunteer efforts and funds donated to keep up both the present and past ice facilities. She feels the proposed building would be an improvement over the current unsightly, dilapidated rink, and a well placed, properly designed and landscaped building in Undine Park would increase property values. A multi-purpose ice facility would benefit all users of the park, not just the hockey players. She urged Council to approve this project without further delay.

Pat Schick, 806 S. 3rd Street, restated her opposition to the building being placed in Undine Park.

Sandi Foster, 409 s. 26th Street, agreed with Ms. Westbrook that a new ice facility is needed in Undine Park. She also spoke about the volunteer labor and fundraising that has been done to keep up the inadequate ice rink. Because of the poor ice, or lack of ice at times in Laramie, hockey players and ice skaters often have to pay to use facilities in Colorado. Ms. Foster said that if the people who are opposing the proposed facility would research, they would find that many attractive ice facilities (often metal buildings) are located in parks in residential areas. She commended the Roof the Rink people's work, and asked if those opposing this would be willing to donate time and money to cover the added cost to get this facility going. She pointed out that if the rink is placed in LaBonte Park, one of the softball fields would have to be moved, and that would be objectionable to some people.

Carla Hughes, 453 N. 3rd Street, feels that the opposition to this project is an emotional issue that has grown into a huge overreaction. She does not believe that a covered rink would impact the park to the degree that is feared, and it would be an improvement aesthetically over what is there now. She feels that it is a community development issue for most of the people that Council represents and thinks it is a very good idea for Council to pass the resolution. She said it is not fair to the people who have donated to this project not to build it. To delay the project might kill it, so she thinks Council should act on this proposal that has been before them for almost year. Ms. Hughes said it would cost money to move this facility to another location. Undine Park is the most feasible location.

Johnnie Knapp, from an award-winning Denver architectural firm, said the rink at Undine does need to be covered, and he has seen proposals for that over 13 years. He bought a house at 7th and Ord on the southeast corner of the Undine Park because the rink was an amenity. He noted that Laramie starts its hockey four months after its competitors on the Front Range, and the lack of ice costs this community both on a competitive level and in scholarships. Two players have begun skating for a Colorado team to enhance their chances for a scholarship. Mr. Knapp is a co-founder of the Poudre Valley Hockey Foundation and has assisted in the development of plans for five rinks in the last six years. The rinks, all on the Front Range, have been built in parks in residential neighborhoods. His firm is volunteering \$10,000 in additional time to make this facility fit the neighborhood. He said that is not a difficult problem and it can be addressed by building design and working with the neighbors. The City has operated this rink for years, so he assumes there is already a business plan for running the rink. Mr. Knapp does not believe that it will cost less to move the rink to another location since there is already a tremendous investment in Undine Park. The average cost of a rink is between \$3 and \$4 million, and this is the most cost-effective solution Council will ever see, since a third of funds are coming from the citizens in donations.

Tim Banks, 906 S. 8th Street, agrees that a covered ice rink is needed in this community, but disagrees that Undine Park is the best location. He believes that the Roof the Rink Committee name and its advertisements were misleading. He thought the plan was just to put a roof over the existing rink, and did not know until recently that it was to put up a large industrial type of building. There would probably have been opposition to this much earlier if that had been understood. He feels the building planned is too large for the park. Mr. Banks noted that the lease agreement would allow the facility to be rented out for weddings, conventions and other events. The reported plan to hire a consultant to conduct a marketing study and strategy, combined with the size and type of the building, seem to indicate a commercial use that he does not think is appropriate in a residential park.

Josiah Westbrook, Jake Bray, Shea Foster, Aaron Garcia, Charles Buxton, and William McFual, members of the Laramie Bantam Hockey Team (ages 13-15), spoke as a group. Many of the Laramie hockey teams often go to Fort Collins about 1:00 a.m. to practice an hour and a half on very expensive ice. They then rush back to school, after only and three to six hours of sleep. In Laramie, the ice rink users often have to shovel snow off the ice. They feel that the availability of an indoor ice rink would give young people things more to do and decrease alcohol and drug use. The present facility is very cramped for both players and the audience, but they do not believe that LaBonte Park is a better location; it is already half-filled with other sports and recreation facilities.

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Dwight Rowell, 1761 Nottage Court, owns two businesses in Laramie and is a hockey player who has donated a substantial amount to Roof the Rink. He hopes that Council will make the decision tonight to put the new facility at Undine Park due to the amount of work that the Roof the Rink Committee has put in on this project. A softball field would have to be moved if the rink were relocated at LaBonte Park, and that would be costly. Mr. Rowell does not believe that any committee can complete anything in 45 days, so does not believe that delay is a good idea. In regard to the Land Use Element, a group of warehouses is located two blocks away from Undine Park.

Rick Jansen, 2257 Sweetwater Drive, reminded Council of other facilities in the community that shows what volunteer efforts can do: the skateboard pad at LaBonte Park and the Teen Center. The Healthy Communities Healthy Youth organization surveyed young people and found that it is important to them to have productive activities and facilities available. He asked Council to keep its goal of listening to and being responsive to youth.

Nickolas Zakis, 921 S. 4th Street, said it is not the fate of the ice rink being discussed tonight; it is the fate of Undine Park. He disagrees that landscaping as described by Mr. Bell is possible or would be effective in enhancing the appearance of the facility, and does not think a parking lot can be landscaped. He feels a building of the proposed size would ruin a very old park and be detrimental to the neighborhood. Mr. Bell explained how landscaping could be done with Colorado Blue Spruce trees.

Eileen Byrd, 618 Ord Street, is in favor of an enclosed ice rink, but does not believe it should be in Undine Park. She is concerned about the plan to use the facility as a conference center during business hours because it would interfere with the use of the park by the schools. Friends of Undine Park is willing to give money to the project if it is not located in Undine Park, and she and several others, are willing to serve on a site selection committee.

David Schick, 118 N. Taylor Street, commented that if the facility is located in the southeast corner of Undine Park, the area where it is now could be reclaimed for another use. This will not be a big commercial project, so traffic should not be a problem. His primary concern about this situation is that a vocal minority is being allowed to control a City park. If that is allowed, nothing can be done in the future without consulting some committee.

Nora Grimes, 3317 Mesquite Lane, said the discussion seems to be more focused on politics and money than what is really important: the kids. She also skates and plays hockey and feels a covered rink is needed in Laramie.

Laura Schritker and Hanna Westbrook, play on both the Laramie boys team and the girls team. They were forced to play on a Denver team this year because Laramie's inadequate facility, so asked Council to approve this.

Caithlin Grimes, 3317 Mesquite Lane, has participated in hundreds of hours of work for the Roof the Rink Committee, and thanked Council for recognizing all the work Roof the Rink has put in. She asked that Council not let this drag on and die, as this is the fifth attempt in twelve years to build a covered facility for the hockey players. Mr. Gaddis asked how many young people are hockey club members, and was told the number is 109.

Bev Schnitker, 4311 Navajo, a Roof the Rink member, spoke about the history of ice skating in Laramie. Making hockey a high school sport is being considered, but that may not be possible due to the inadequate facilities. She pointed out that Roof the Rink has had over 150 meetings, each lasting at least two hours, over the last eleven months. They have met with contractors and engineers, made presentations around the community, and planned fundraisers. Over 1,000 people have made contributions to the project and those people ask what is happening, but Roof the Rink cannot give them answers because they do not know. Roof the Rink is setting up an account for Friends of the Park, labeled Account B, for people to make donations to fund an alternate location if that is necessary. They have held three neighborhood meetings with Friends of the Park, but have not been able to come to a resolution because they do not have the authority to make a decision on where the rink will be. It is time for Council to make a decision on where this project will be. Friends of the Park say they are in support of the ice rink project, but they have attacked every effort Roof the Rink has made, making it impossible to fund raise right now.

Mr. Stone asked Ms. Schnitker whether, if Council can approve a site within a 45-day period, Roof the Rink will be able to meet the construction schedule that is tentatively set for the Undine Park location. Ms. Schnitker said 30 days would be preferable, 45 days would be possible, but 90 days would be too long. Mr. Stone said he will propose that if a more suitable location than Undine Park cannot be found within 45 days, this resolution be approved. He feels it is Council's responsibility to investigate whether there is a better location.

John Wilkinson, representing the UW Hockey Club that practices and plays in Cheyenne, said he has no current affiliation with Laramie youth hockey but would like to see children have this winter activity for the next 40 or 50 years.

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He was a member of a committee called Roof the Rink twelve years ago; this is not a new movement. He also sat on a committee that planned for a new rink and spent over \$60,000 for architectural design and soil testing for a facility that would have been located on land that was donated by the University. He feels that the present Roof the Rink Committee has done incredible planning and work on this proposal, and it is time to act.

Debbie Hinkel, 1118 Custer, Room the Rink member, said that the former City Manager and Mr. Rimington supported roofing the rink to prevent further deterioration in the facility. She sat on the Ice Focus Committee for a year and a half, which planned for a new facility; that is why it is a "bare bones" facility. It makes the most sense to build the facility at Undine because that is the most affordable location. She asked Council not to wait to act.

Connie Buxton, 750 Fox Creek Road, said she agrees with what Mr. Bell is proposing, and thanked him for his support for a new facility. She suggested that rather than spending a lot of money to move the facility, a smaller amount be spent to make the building more attractive as Mr. Bell has recommended. She said that Roof the Rink has worked very hard on this project, but any further delay can kill the project. Ms. Buxton pointed out that Council has already voted unanimously on the Undine Park location, and this should not be put off on the new Council. She said the current Council needs to make a stand and do something positive for community youth.

Andrea Herries, 701 Ord Street, questions whether 45 days would be long enough to find another location. She said the site is not the only remaining issue, there is also the financing, the feasibility study, the business plan. She asked how long those things would take. The Mayor said the site would have to be finalized first.

John Kinnard, 410 Ord Street, said he bought his house partly because of the park and the view. The proposed building would ruin his view. He loves his house the way it is.

Bill Talbert, 1011 S. 6th Street, has a site plan for the facility that includes 48 parking spaces and shows that the facility would take up to one-quarter of the park. He disagrees with Mr. Bell that this is not a change of use. In meetings with Friends of Undine Park, Roof the Rink people have said that they do not care where the rink is located, but they want to begin construction this spring. Friends of Undine Park offered help with fundraising, but if the Park is still being considered for a site, that is unlikely to happen. He questions the revenue projections for the new facility and does not feel enough money is planned for landscaping. Mr. Talbert said the goal of Friends of Undine Park is not to stop the new facility, but to find a more appropriate location for a facility of this nature. He asked that Council include all the stakeholders and mandate additional research and site study for the facility.

Diedre O'Dwyer, 1414 Thomes, supports the ice rink as it will benefit the whole community. Something positive needs to be done for the youth of the community. She urged Council to vote on this resolution tonight, even if the decision is made to put a committee together to spend 45 days looking for a alternate site. She said without this resolution, the naysayers could cause the project to be postponed and lost.

Willie Candelaria, 1004 S. 7th Street, agrees that a rink is needed but objects to the loss of the softball field on the southeast corner of Undine Park. That is probably the most used quarter of Undine Park and will take away several other playing courts that are used by a greater number of young people than those who use the rink. Council needs to make a decision, but he hopes the ice rink building is not placed in Undine Park.

Annie Nordin, City Council member elect, said the four new council members have submitted a letter to Council asking that the decision on the new ice rink facility be postponed until they take office. They feel that more research on this proposal is needed and that there are too many unresolved issues that will affect the new Council in the future. She supports a new rink, but feels tonight is not the time to make a decision. Ms. Nordin said Laramie money will be used to build the rink and all citizens should have the opportunity to be heard, not just Roof the Rink, although she commends their efforts. If this resolution making Undine Park the preferred location for the rink is passed, but a committee is given 45 days to research an alternate site and bring back a recommendation, the new Council could overturn the resolution. She understands that if the lease is signed before the 45 days is up, the new Council would be unable to turn the decision around, so that issue should be clarified when the vote is taken tonight. The rink will be in the community a long time, so it needs to be done right without hasty decisions. Ms. Nordin said this needs to be tabled with action, but it is too early to approve the resolution as the facts are not in. The two large groups have generated too much emotion and bias, and a smaller committee, possibly made up of three people from each committee and the Council, should be able to work together to come up with alternate solutions. She does not believe that if a decision is not made tonight, the project will not happen, and agrees with the 45-day time period for the committee to work through this and come back with a recommendation. Ms. Nordin feels the Account B idea is bogus, as most people who donated to Roof the Rink probably did not intend their contribution to be conditional on the rink being located in Undine Park.

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Kevin Gall, Laramie, said he does not live near the park but does use the skating rink. He asked Council to evaluate all they have heard tonight, as he thinks a lot of the numbers that were given tonight were doubtful. Council should consider whether taking park space away is a good idea.

Mr. Bell stated that this Council is in place until the end of the year and has every right to vote on this issue since they have been involved in it. He observed that donations have been promised if the rink is moved, but he has yet to see a checkbook come out. This can be referred to a committee so action can be deferred, but he believes, as a businessman, that this is the best deal the City will get. Dedicated people have raised a lot of money for this project, but people who will do nothing for the project are trying to get it out of their neighborhood. This park belongs to everybody in this community, but there are only 500 signatures opposing it. He will vote to pass the resolution to put the facility in Undine Park. He does not think it should be referred to a committee because he does not believe it will detract from Undine Park. It is not a change of use; the ice rink has been there for years. This facility is outdated and does not serve the purpose, so he urged Council to make the tough decision.

Mr. Furphy said that passing this resolution tonight would give a clear signal to Roof the Rink that, if an alternative site has not been identified within 45 days, they can go forward and build at Undine Park. He is worried that an alternative site study could go beyond 45 days without a deadline, so he is in favor of passing this resolution.

Mr. Meyer said he planned to oppose this resolution, but after reading the phrasing that the *preferred* location is Undine Park and hearing the proposal for a committee, he agrees with Mr. Furphy. He will vote for the resolution.

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MOTION BY STONE, seconded by Meyer: that the first paragraph on the second page of Resolution No. 2000-25 be amended to read: *NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Laramie does hereby resolve that, unless a more suitable location is approved by the City Council of the City of Laramie within 45 days of the Mayor's signing said resolution, Undine Park is the preferred location of the new enclosed ice rink facility.*

Mr. Stone feels that this is a win/win solution to this problem. Council can approve the building of the new facility, but there is still the chance that a more agreeable location can be found within 45 days. He believes there are some good potential sites for the rink. Mr. Stone pointed out that the date on which the Mayor can sign the lease agreement, probably following the 45-day deadline, needs to be clarified.

Mr. Bell said he regards that as a friendly amendment that might help bring this matter to conclusion.

Mr. Gaddis feels that the memo completely changes the tenor of the resolution, so he can support it.

There was some discussion about when the lease placing the ice facility in Undine Park (approved by Council some time ago) could be signed. Mr. Gaddis pointed out that the lease was written to place the facility where the rink is now; he does not approve of placing the rink anywhere else in the park.

Mr. Shumway said he will vote for this amendment, but hope that this does not send the message that Undine Park is a mandate. He feels strongly that an alternate site should be found.

Roll call vote on Amendment showed all members voting ayes; nays, none. Absent: McCracken. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY STONE, seconded by Gaddis: that the third paragraph on the second page of Resolution No. 2000-25 be amended to read: *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Laramie does hereby direct the Mayor to execute the Lease of Park for Ice Sports Facility, which was previously approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of June 20, 2000, on January 6, 2000, unless another location is chosen.*

Mr. Gaddis said the easiest way to handle this would be to delete the paragraph. The Roof the Rink people do not want the facility to be in the location in the park that the lease covers.

MOTION WITHDRAWN, with approval of the second.

MOTION BY STONE, seconded by Gaddis: that the third paragraph on the second page of Resolution No. 2000-25 be deleted from the resolution.

Mr. Stone asked if it is true that the site that was approved by Council in June does not refer to the site that Roof the Rink is currently looking at, and was told that was correct. Mr. Furphy asked if this amendment would have an effect on Roof the Rink's financing, and was told by one of the members that he did not believe it would.

Roll call vote on Amendment showed all members voting ayes; nays, none. Absent: McCracken. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Williams said he supports this resolution as he did want a committee to look at other alternative sites for the ice rink. He will appoint that committee later in the meeting.

Roll call vote on Amended Motion showed all members voting ayes, nays, none. Absent: McCracken. MOTION CARRIED.

Council recessed at 10:42 p.m., reconvening at 10:54 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-24, AUTHORIZING SPONSORSHIP OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PLANNING ONLY GRANT THROUGH CDBG PROGRAM FOR THE LARAMIE AMATEUR HOCKEY CLUB TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

A. Letter from Shari Schuch and Family opposing grant.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 2000-24 in its entirety:

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING ONLY GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,500 TO THE WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL FROM THE CITY OF LARAMIE FOR THE PURPOSE OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE LARAMIE AMATEUR HOCKEY CLUB, LARAMIE, WYOMING.

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Business Council is authorized to make grants to municipalities and counties for the purpose of Economic Development projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laramie conducted a public hearing November 14, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laramie gave full consideration to all comments received at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laramie, in an effort to support the project, has agreed to reserve a first right of refusal to purchase the completed facility for a price not to exceed \$400,000.00;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Laramie, Wyoming; that the City of Laramie supports an application to the Wyoming Business Council for the purpose of an Economic Development/Planning Only grant in an amount not to exceed \$17,500 for the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan for the Laramie Amateur Hockey Club, Laramie, Wyoming.

DULY ADOPTED in open meeting by the Laramie City Council this 21st day of November, 2000.

MOTION BY MEYER, seconded by Shumway: that Resolution No. 2000-24 be approved, and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign.

Mr. Gaddis noted that this resolution does not refer to an ice facility or rink, only to promoting the hockey club. It was pointed out that the grant application goes into detail about how the money would be used. Mr. Stone pointed out that the grant does not take location of the facility into consideration; the money is merely for planning. Mr. Gaddis said there have been so many misunderstandings over City projects in the last few years that he feels that Council needs to spend more time saying what it means in plain language.

Roll call vote showed all members voting ayes, nays, none. Absent: McCracken. MOTION CARRIED.

ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO RESEARCH ALTERNATIVE INDOOR RINK FACILITY SITES.

A. Letter from Rob Field, Friends of Undine Park.

Mayor Williams acknowledged a letter from Rob Field, Friends of Undine Park, requesting to be a member of the alternative site research committee.

Mayor Williams said he will appoint three Council members to this committee at this time. He asked that Roof the Rink and Friends of Undine Park appoint three representatives each from their respective committees, and turn those names into the City Managers by the end of the business day on Monday, November 27, 2000. The committee to research alternative sites is to report its recommendations back to Council in a special meeting that will be held on January 9, 2001. The Mayor said that is a work session; he is calling a special meeting for that. Community Services will help pull information together for the committee looking at alternative sites, and staff has already been alerted that they might be called to committee meetings if there are questions.

The Mayor appointed Erik Stone, Annie Nordin, and Jeanette Reisenburg from City Council to serve on the committee. He said it is appropriate to appoint the new Council members as they will be making the site decision.

REPLACEMENT OF THE ANIMAL SHELTER'S HVAC SYSTEM.

MOTION BY SHUMWAY, seconded by Gaddis: that Council approve the purchase for replacement of the Animal Shelter's HVAC system to Mullen's Heating, Laramie, WY, in the amount of \$15,847.00, and that the language requiring the City to pay attorney fees in the event of dispute be struck from the proposal and contract.

Mr. Shumway said it is usual for parties to pay their own attorney fees, and he feels it would be wrong to accept this condition. Mr. Gaddis said Council may want to direct staff to make that part of City policy.

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Roll call vote showed all members voting ayes; nays, none. Absent: McCracken. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Randy Carnehan, 608 Ord, said he thinks that only half the problem with the ice rink proposal has been addressed. There is still no business plan or studies on the impact of the proposed facility on the neighborhood. He hopes that in this 45 days, the City could get some independent assessments of potential traffic problems and the effect on property values. He objected to some comments made about Friends of Undine Park, but said he appreciates Council members that make it clear where they stand on an issue.

Mr. Gaddis said that there is a real incentive for Roof the Rink to find a new location, as they have a legal right to only the southwest corner of the park, which is not a good site for the facility.

Fred Homer, Council member elect, noted that is also important for the site selection committee to be open. He feels the meetings should be publicly announced and open meetings with a reporter present should be held.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION.

On motion, Council recessed to Executive Session regarding litigation at 11:12 p.m., reconvening at 11:51 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion, Council adjourned at 11:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Morris-Jones, CMC
City Clerk