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Council takes action on BPD at DNC, Snappers stadium

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The Beloit City Council referred multiple items related to the downtown Beloit Snappers stadium proposal to the Beloit Plan Commission for further review before taking action on the \$32 million plan that's estimated to break ground on April 30.

Rendering provided by HCP

BELOIT—The Beloit City Council took action on Monday night to approve an agreement to send Beloit officers to the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Milwaukee in July, and also accepted the final design plans for the downtown Beloit Snappers stadium.



Beloit officers will join a group of Janesville Police Department officers and Rock County Sheriff's Office staff to assist with security operations during the convention that is scheduled for July 13 to 16.

"The Beloit Police Department is trained and equipped to assist in events like this, and is ready to join other Rock County agencies in support of the Milwaukee Police Department," said Beloit Police Chief David Zibolski.

Costs will be covered by the city of Milwaukee thanks to a \$100 million federal grant that covers personnel costs for municipalities that respond in convention cities during election years. The Rock County departments got involved after being approached by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and Milwaukee Police Department.

About 4,000 officers will be assigned to the convention.

On the stadium plan, the council referred three items to the Beloit Plan Commission regarding the Beloit Snappers downtown proposal, including a planned urban development (PUD) application; a zoning map amendment; and a resolution starting the process to vacate a portion of Water Street near the stadium site.

Il three documents are vital to construction starting on time.

In other stadium-related news, prospective Beloit Snappers owner Quint Studer said the Midwest League approved the agreement for Studer Entertainment and Retail to manage team operations for this year. Now Minor League Baseball (MiLB) and Major League Baseball (MLB)



will review Studer's acquisition of the team, the last step in finalizing the sale of the team. Studer said he sees "no problem" with the process moving forward.

The Plan Commission is scheduled to meet on March 4 to possibly take action on vacating a portion of Water Street and the PUD application before both items could head to the council for final vote on March 16 (PUD) and April 20 (Water Street).

The rezoning of the site is expected to head before council on March 16, according to Beloit Planning and Building Services Director Drew Pennington.

As previously reported by the *Beloit Daily News*, the PUD was submitted on Jan. 24 by Jones Petrie Rafinski on behalf of Hendricks Commercial Properties, the developer on the project.

The land is owned by the City of Beloit and would be leased to the Riverbend Stadium Authority, the group set to manage stadium operations.

The stadium authority is poised to enter into a lease agreement with the city for the land, which the city would continue to own. The stadium is expected to be used not only for the home of the Snappers, but also for hosting non-baseball events like soccer matches, football games, concerts and community gatherings.

Construction at the site is expected to include two parking lots, one south of Shirland Avenue across from the stadium and one immediately north of the stadium, consisting of 226 available parking spaces.



A parking analysis provided in the planning documents shows stakeholders estimate a total parking need of 875 spaces based on the assumption that one parking space per four fans at full capacity (3,500) are used. The analysis states there are 777 available public parking spaces within a 10 minute walk of the stadium.

Construction on the \$32 million stadium at 217 Shirland Avenue (just over nine acres) is expected to start on April 30 and be completed by April 1, 2021.

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