City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

- **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** 10/13/2025

- **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Wayne Simmons, Parks & Recreation Department

- **Requested Council meeting date:** 10/28/2025

- **Subject:** Sports Officiating & Referee Services

- **Action Requested:** Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Tennyson Rucker for an initial term (November 2025 to June 2026) for an amount of $87,000 to provide sports officiating and referee services for all Asheville Parks & Recreation youth and adult sports leagues.

- Options for two (2) twelve month renewals estimated at $135,000.00 annually with a maximum of $357,000 over the life of this contract.

- **Note if time sensitive, and why:** The Parks & Recreation Department is preparing for fall/winter sports leagues which require qualified officials for all games.

- **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:**
    - The total for this contract's initial term and two (2) optional 12 month renewals will not exceed $357,000.
    - Funding in the total of $87,000 for the initial term is available in the Parks & Recreation Department operational budget.
    - Funding levels for each of the two (2) optional 12 month renewals would be contingent upon available funding in the Parks & Recreation Department's annual appropriation for its operational budget and would not exceed a maximum of $135,000 per year for each of the optional renewals.

- **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).**
    - Funding for this project is provided through the City Parks and Recreation Department's operating budget. As a result, the outreach and engagement followed the City's business inclusion processes.
    - Staff performed a solicitation process which included advertising Requests for Proposals (RFP) on the North Carolina Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) website.
    - Staff also advertised to all existing independent contractors who have performed sports officiating for the City of Asheville.

- **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** None

- **Identify key issues:**
    - The current model of recruiting qualified sports officials as independent contractors is no longer sustainable and is compounded by the declining pool of available officials in the region.
    - Contracting with a qualified vendor to provide officiating and referee services will provide skilled and competent officials/referees for all Parks & Recreation youth and adult sports programs.
    - Recruitment, training and ongoing evaluations of sports officials by an experienced vendor will help ensure that Parks & Recreation programs provide the quality services expected by participants.