City Council Agenda Item Request

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** 3/23/26

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Chris Corl; Community & Regional Entertainment Facilities

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** 4/14/26

4. **Subject:** Lease update; Dewine Seeds Silver Dollar Baseball LLC

5. **Action Requested:** Approve update within the lease agreement.

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** Yes - this needs to be on the 4/14 agenda in order to be completed prior to Opening Day of the 2026 baseball season, which is scheduled for April 21, 2026.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** None

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).** Not Applicable

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** Not applicable

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - Update and clarification to a 'deal point' within the lease agreement with Dewine Seeds Silver Dollar Baseball LLC. for McCormick Field.
    - This item was addressed in the new long term lease agreement which took effect on January 1, 2026 and specifically requests a follow up with Council on the topic when necessary.
    - This update will be necessary before the season begins.
    - The City of Asheville owns Lewis McCormick Field, opened in 1924 and named after the then staff bacteriologist Dr. Lewis McCormick who started the 'Swat That Fly' campaign in 1905 to reduce the area's burgeoning problem with the housefly.
    - Dewine Seeds - Silver Dollar Baseball, LLC. owns the Asheville Tourists, a Major League Baseball (MLB) Professional Development League (PDL) team which plays its home games at McCormick Field.
    - The Asheville Tourists have called McCormick Field home since 1924, with some exceptions around World War II when minor league baseball was suspended. The current ownership group has leased the facility from the City since 2010.
    - On March 14, 2023, Asheville City Council approved Resolution 23-49 authorizing the City Manager to sign a funding letter of commitment to Major League Baseball regarding the City's intent to bring the facility into compliance with MLB PDL facility standards at an estimated total cost of $37.5 Million.
    - Funding to offset the debt services required for a construction project of this magnitude was sourced and committed to by four entities.
        i. City of Asheville
        ii. Buncombe County Government
        iii. Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority
        iv. Dewine Seeds - Silver Dollar Baseball LLC.
    - On May 13, 2025, Asheville City Council approved Resolution 25-95 authorizing a long-term

lease agreement with Dewine Seeds - Silver Dollar Baseball, LLC. As part, the team is responsible for annual lease payments, averaging over $475,000 to the City for use to offset debt service payments.