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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARMAN HOME CENTRE COMMUNIPLEX EXPANSION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD
Construction of project awarded to Quorex Construction

(Warman, Sask.) – Recreational opportunities and facility space will be expanding in the City of Warman after City Council awarded construction of the Warman Home Centre Communiplex Arena Expansion Project (WHCCAEP) at the December 19 Special Meeting of Council.

The project has been awarded to Quorex Construction in the amount of \$12,894,722.05 plus applicable taxes. The bid was the lowest of the six received in the tender process.

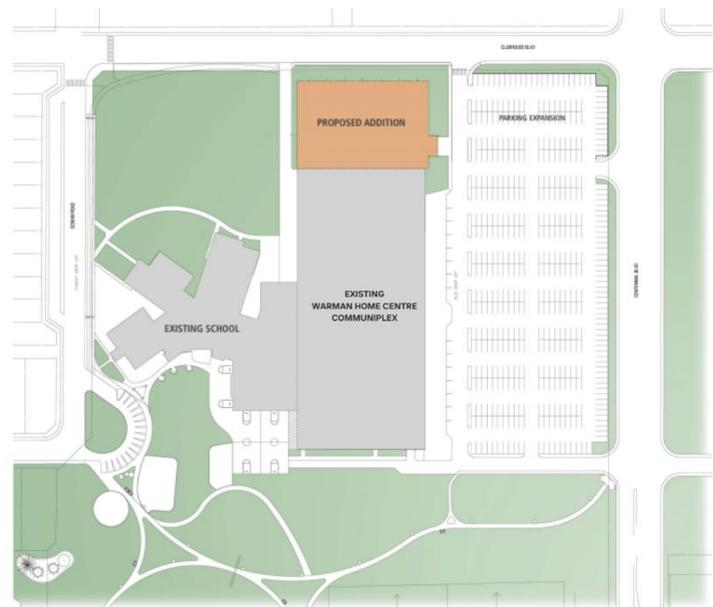
The approved project cost marks a significantly lower anticipated price tag, after an October 12, 2023 estimate projected the WHCCAEP may cost approximately \$14.7-million plus applicable taxes.

“This decision wasn’t made lightly. Careful consideration was given to the financial impacts on residents every step of the way,” said Mayor Gary Philipchuk. “Moving ahead with this project was not a foregone conclusion, given the uncertainties in today’s construction market. But, despite what is still a significant cost, we’re pleased that it is more than twelve percent lower than what was anticipated.”

The two-storey expansion features 2,952 m² on the main floor and 880 m² on the second. Facility components include a single ice arena, seating for 205 spectators, six changes rooms and a second-floor lounge space with seating for 150 people. The expansion is accommodated by the existing facility’s ice plant as it was designed to meet the needs of a second ice surface. Support spaces such as mechanical, electrical, storage, office and ice resurfer areas are also accommodated within the expansion.

The intent of the WHCCAEP is to address the community’s continual growth and the demands of recreational opportunities as the city addresses the uncertainty of the Diamond Rodeo Arena, built in 1967.

Construction of the WHCCAEP is tentatively scheduled to start February 2024 and tentatively be completed in late summer 2025.



The Warman Home Centre Communiplex Arena Expansion Project (orange) will be situated on the north wall of the existing WHCC.

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PROJECT HISTORY:

The Warman Home Centre Communiplex (formerly the Legends Centre) Arena Expansion Project has been on the radar of City Council and Administration for approximately a decade. It was the target of many successful Sports Celebrity Dinner fundraisers put on by the Warman Sport and Cultural Village. Those fundraising totals have been put in reserves for the project once given the green light. The WHCCAEP was then identified as the highest-priority facility in the City of Warman Recreation, Culture & Parks Master Plan in December 2019.

The City applied four times for funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the project between 2019-2022 to help ease the financial burden on taxpayers. As the City held off building in hopes of receiving nearly three quarters of the cost in funding, the cost continued to rise:

- **March 23, 2020:** \$7,840,100 plus applicable taxes
- **November 29, 2021:** \$11,780,879 plus applicable taxes
- **October 12, 2023:** \$14,696,500 plus applicable taxes

“Despite the disappointing results of the ICIP process, the fastest-growing city in Saskatchewan was still faced with the need for this facility,” said Mayor Philipchuk. “I am proud our growing community’s capacity and this current Council’s vision to take on a project of this magnitude despite the lack of provincial and federal funding. Still, council exercises our city’s self-sufficiency carefully when continuing our sustainable growth.”

Council considered, and later implemented a 75-dollar Recreation Capital Levy on residential and commercial properties starting in 2024. The levy will increase to 150 dollars starting in 2025 and will remain in place. It will help fund the WHCCAEP along with future recreational facilities in Warman.

Council and Administration will continue seeking out fundraising, grants and other opportunities to ease the financial impact while maximizing the community impact.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

In July 2023, the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) conducted the *City of Warman Recreation & Spectator Sports Sector Economic Impact Study*.

The study found that the City’s largest recreation spectator sporting events at the Warman Home Centre Communiplex contribute \$14.22-million to the local economy through hotel stays, restaurant use, shopping purchases, gas, etc. This results in \$7.4-million added to the local GDP and \$4.59-million added to the labour income of individuals and households in the community. It also supports 160 full-time equivalent jobs. This doesn’t factor in the many existing smaller events that occur throughout the year.

After completion of the WHCCAEP, more minor sports tournaments could be supported.

“Council is pleased to see how beneficial this facility is to the community as shown in SREDA’s study, even before the expansion,” said Mayor Philipchuk. “Adding minor hockey tournaments, expanded programming for other sports and more larger events brings a strong economic impact that will reverberate throughout the community. “

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