Anderson City Council members gave final approval Monday to a rezoning that will allow Anderson University to build several athletic fields at the former county fairgrounds.

The university plans to have several tennis courts, a softball field and a pool ready around the spring and workers will begin grading much of the 44-acre site soon. The athletic fields will be for university uses, not the public.

A 10-year plan calls for additional construction, including a baseball field, athletic offices and a stadium for soccer or other sports.

The rezoning changes the land from light industrial to multi-family residential and allows for the new construction.

A vacant 6-acre plot belonging to the university and located directly across the street from the former fairground was also rezoned. There are no immediate plans for that land.

The votes for rezoning were unanimous among council members. The rezoning had been recommended unanimously by the city's planning commission.

The council also gave unanimous approval to the purchase of two inflatable emergency lights, small enough to fit in a 3-foot-square box but powerful enough to light a football field, said Assistant Fire Chief Randy Bratcher.

The cost of $10,490 will be reimbursed by the Department of Homeland Security and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the lights will be used locally as well as during disasters outside the area.
A 57-year-old woman helped to honor two firefighters who saved her life when she was in cardiac arrest in March. Firefighter Reese Shaw and Engineer Craig Saxon were given the Anderson Fire Department’s Life Saving Award, and a hug from the woman.


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