

# Two weeks notice to tweak baseball bid

**JON WILLING**  
City Hall Bureau

City council is giving a baseball group two more weeks to fine-tune a proposal to bring games back to the Ottawa Stadium this summer.

The Ottawa Stadium Group (OSG) wants to put an Ottawa franchise in the Intercounty Baseball League, which is based in southern Ontario. The OSG was the only group that submitted a bid to obtain a lease for the stadium.

The city was expected to have the lease finalized by now, but a last-minute hiccup caused city council to meet in private Wednesday to discuss a possible lease agreement with OSG.

Councillors wouldn't discuss the sticking point in the proposal, but Bay Coun. Alex Cullen said they were trying to protect the taxpayers' interests.

"We're giving these guys a second chance," Cullen said, noting there were "problems" with OSG's original bid.

The issues are expected to be

worked out by the next council meeting on Feb. 24.

Orleans Coun. Bob Manette, who has been trying to get baseball back in the stadium, said councillors had "good discussions" about the lease in the private meeting.

## Credit security

David Butler, head of the OSG, said council was looking for better credit security on the expenses. He said he has already made a \$50,000 deposit on the lease.

Butler said he's "confident" all the city's issues with the proposal will be worked out by the next council meeting.

The group has already started the recruiting process, even scouting talent in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The OSG is offering to host some Can-Am League games this summer. Former Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Duane Ward would also run a baseball camp under the OSG plan.

jon.willing@sunmedia.ca

