

**Wranglers deal runs into some turbulence: The Springdale City Council's contract revision has the Wranglers' president saying the team could go elsewhere.**

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Sep. 1--Springdale Chamber of Commerce president **Perry Webb** said Thursday that there's a 50-50 chance the Wranglers, Wichita's Double-A baseball team, won't move to Arkansas for the 2008 season. The problem is the revised contract the Springdale City Council adopted in a special meeting Tuesday night. In the revised contract, the city, rather than the team, would have naming rights for the new stadium. And the team would be asked to pay a portion of property taxes on the stadium.

Jonathan Dandes, president of the Wranglers and Rich Baseball of Buffalo, N.Y., told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that naming rights were non-negotiable. "To the major points in the lease, we have no intention of even having a conversation about them," Dandes said. "If the City Council does not want this team, they need to say so. We've got other options." Residents of Springdale passed a 1-cent sales tax extension by 13 votes on July 11 to build a \$33 million stadium to house a Double-A team. The Wranglers plan to play the 2007 season in Wichita and move in 2008. That would break the team's lease with Wichita, but the city has said it will not exercise its option to buy the team. Wichita is still negotiating with Rich Baseball, owner of the Wranglers, about extending the lease for the National Baseball Congress. Dandes did not return a call from The Eagle on Thursday.

Rich Baseball received Springdale's revised contract Thursday afternoon, and Springdale Mayor Jerre Van Hoose expected to get a revised contract from the Wranglers today. He was trying to set up a special council meeting for Saturday or Tuesday to discuss the contract. "If the deal falls through with the Wranglers and Springdale (and the Wranglers stay in Wichita), it's likely we wouldn't return to status quo," Wichita City Council member Paul Gray said. "A lot of discussion would have to take place because we need to make sure that if they choose to stay here, we're not dealing with the same situation two years from now."

Gray said Wichita has had conversations with several independent league teams about playing in Lawrence-Dumont Stadium, possibly as early as 2008. "Our community is excited about the ...