

and considering various options and among those options, I suppose, we ought to include this if we're going to proceed with it. So I would like to have this amendment adopted so we would allow that opportunity for Lancaster County as well as for Douglas County.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. I have a number of speakers. I will check to see if you want to speak to the Wesely amendment. Senator Withem, to the Wesely amendment.

**SENATOR WITHEM:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I will speak to the Wesely amendment which I will be supportive of. I think it makes sense although I think it's...the facts are somewhat different. The Omaha community now has a minor league baseball team located within its confines. The City of Lincoln would like to have one. I think Senator Lindsay did a good job of explaining the amendment and what the purpose is. I would like to try to fill in a few of the details that I don't think h. covered about why this is needed and why this is necessary. There has been an offer tendered by a number of out...of individuals outside of Nebraska who wish to purchase the Omaha Royals Minor League Triple A franchise team and move it to another community. The owner, Mr. Cherry, is in need or desiring to sell the Royals. He has also said he would prefer to sell it to a buyer in the City of Omaha. And there is a deadline coming right up, I think, as a matter of fact, one of the additional deadlines was tomorrow. That may be extended a little bit. The City of Omaha and, Senator Lindsay, correct me if I'm wrong on this, but I think the City of Omaha has not expressed any desire to own and operate over any long term a minor league baseball team. What the Morgan administration had been exploring is the possibility of temporarily purchasing the team and then selling stock to the citizens of Omaha so that the citizens of Omaha would own the team somewhat similar to the way the citizens in Green Bay, Wisconsin own the Green Bay Packers. It would not be the intent to make this an ongoing function of city government in Omaha. The other possibility would be to buy it and purchase it and put together a holding company while a group of investors, Omaha based investors, could get together to purchase it. The Omaha Royals is...you know, part of the fabric of the City of Omaha is one of the tourist attractions in Omaha, the City of Omaha has spent a lot of money on Rosenblatt Stadium in the last few years to refurbish it, make it a more attractive site to host the College World Series. Without the Omaha Royals being there, it also tends to jeopardize the...the