



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IX.J.
3/24/2015

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution amending Street Lighting Policies for The City of Oklahoma City.

Background

The purpose of the resolution is to amend the City Council's current street lighting policy. On December 9, 1980 (Item No. VIII.L.), the City Council last updated its policy on street lighting by resolution. That resolution updated the street lighting policy that had been in effect up to that time.

This resolution primarily serves as an update of the policy. It does not propose any additions to the current policy. This resolution also does not address pedestrian level lighting nor does it address lighting roadways in commercial areas as the City has not previously adopted any policy governing these lighting applications.

This resolution updates the current policy by:

- Removing the financial limitation that constrains the City to not increase its total street lighting expenditure in a fiscal year more than five percent over the previous fiscal year's expenditure.

There are at least two major factors that could impact City expenditures on street lighting resulting in an increase over five percent. The first is a rate increase by electric utilities could reach or exceed five percent in a year resulting in violation of the policy. The second factor is how the City applies the credits it receives from OG+E as part of the franchise agreement. Shifting those credits from street lighting expenses to other accounts may be more advantageous to the City overall, but raise street lighting expenses by more than five percent. For these reasons the five percent cap is removed from the policy.

- Deleting all references to specific lighting fixture types.

Specifying lighting fixtures is not a necessary component of the policy as the types of lighting fixtures available from the three electric utility companies that provide street lighting in Oklahoma City vary over time. With the advent of light emitting diode (LED) street lighting fixtures,

identifying specific lighting types within the policy is impractical as newer and more efficient lighting systems are developed.

- Amending the conditions under which mid-block lighting can be authorized.

The current policy states that when “the distance between intersections is 600 feet or greater, a light may be installed at the mid point provided that facilities and necessary right-of-way are available; otherwise, the installation of residential street lights shall only be at dedicated and open street intersections.” The current policy does not allow for more than one mid-block street light in residential areas. Over the years, staff has received requests for and authorized more than one mid-block light when the block lengths have exceeded 1,200 feet. Language in the proposed resolution allows for lighting to be installed in residential areas at equidistant locations along a block where the spacing of lights as otherwise allowed for under this policy would exceed 300 feet. In such cases, the resulting spacing between street lights in residential areas will be no closer than 220 feet. A street light spacing matrix based on the distance between lights as opposed to a “block length” reference was developed to increase the potential number of street lights that could be authorized under the proposed resolution.

- Adding a process to review street light locations as a part of the Planning Commission consideration of new residential developments.

In order to assure that the necessary side yard utility easements are provided as a part of new subdivisions so that “mid-block” lighting can be installed in accordance with the proposed policy, the resolution provides a process for reviewing new residential developments for compliance with the policy.

Review

Public Works Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.

Attachment