



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 7, 2018 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Second Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Conversion of All City Streetlights on Wooden Poles to LED Fixtures

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the ordinance at second reading.

Context with Key Issues

The City Council authorized staff to pursue the conversion of existing streetlights to LED technology via Resolution 2016-41. The Council Resolution directed the staff and Pepco to ensure that the replacement fixtures be International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Certified, and have a color temperature of 3000 Kelvin. A Council and community tour to look at test fixtures installed on three City streets was held on Monday, October 8. Those test fixtures are in compliance with Resolution 2016-41. The Council discussed the draft Resolution and Ordinance at the Work Session on October 17, held a straw vote showing support for the draft Resolution, and indicated a desire to move forward to adopt the Resolution and Ordinance.

On October 24, the City Council adopted Resolution 2018-50 approving conversion to LED street lighting. That same evening, the Council voted on First Reading Ordinance 2018-43 authorizing the conversion of all City streetlights on wooden poles to LED fixtures. Second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for November 7.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community; Fiscally Responsible Government

Environmental Considerations

The conversion of the overhead streetlights will result in significant reduction in electricity use for this purpose; estimates at this time are 30 to 50% less energy. Additionally, the ground level lighting will be improved as the fixtures are International Dark Sky Association Certified and meet requirements for eliminating light pollution above the fixture and focusing the light on the areas below.

Fiscal Considerations

The City currently pays approximately \$180,000 annually to Pepco for streetlight operation and maintenance, taxes, and fees; and pays another \$53,000 for electricity to WGL (for 100% Wind) resulting in a total annual cost of \$233,000 for streetlights. Based on Pepco's calculations, the reduction in energy use and maintenance costs will result in a savings of at least \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually and may be as much as \$100,000. The overall cost of the program is expected to be \$372,000 and the City anticipates a \$260,000 rebate from the Empower Maryland Program, leaving a balance of \$112,000. Based on the projected annual savings, the program will pay for itself in less than two years and those savings from reduced energy use and maintenance costs will carry through for the life of the fixtures.

Racial Equity Considerations

The conversion of existing street lighting will impact the entire city and affect all streets. The selected fixture will provide a uniform appearance of light fixtures throughout the city. Currently, there are numerous different styles of fixtures and wide variation in lighting levels. This will provide a more uniform street light regardless of area or neighborhood, resulting in a more equitable and consistent manner to provide necessary street lighting throughout the city. Some areas of the city have fewer street lights per block, which can result in areas that feel unsafe to pedestrians and can limit the visibility of tripping hazards. The draft resolution calls for identifying, after the lighting conversion takes place, those areas of the community that are underlit and a process and funding to install additional street lights to ensure adequate lighting across the city.

Attachments and Links

- Second Reading Ordinance
- [Street Light Project Page](#)

Introduced by: Councilmember Smith

First Reading: October 24, 2018

Second Reading:

Effective Date:

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-43

**AUTHORIZING THE CONVERSION OF ALL CITY STREETLIGHTS
ON WOODEN POLES TO LED FIXTURES**

WHEREAS, The City has pursued more efficient, attractive and consistent street lighting for many years; and

WHEREAS, Pepco owns street lights on wooden poles in the City and is the only provider that can upgrade or change these street lights; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has determined that Pepco is a sole source provider; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized staff to work with Pepco to develop the program via Resolution 2016-4; and

WHEREAS, in May, 2018 Pepco installed the recommended LED replacement fixture type on three City streets to gather feedback and provided additional alternative sample fixtures in October; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated cost of replacing all existing streetlight fixtures in the City is \$372,000, to be paid to Pepco; and

WHEREAS, the City has applied for and received approval for a grant from the Empower Maryland program for up to \$260,000 to be used for the streetlight conversion project; and

WHEREAS, the remaining funds required for the project total \$112,000; and

WHEREAS, funds for the installation project will be offset by significant savings in maintenance and electricity costs of approximately \$100,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, funds to cover the cost of the project will be in a Prepaid Account titled Pepco Street Light Conversion Project, funded by future savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is authorized to expend \$112,000 to replace the existing streetlights citywide with the selected LED fixture; such funds to be offset by future maintenance and energy savings.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2018 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: