



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 15, 2020

Agenda Item 1

Work Session

Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing Purchase of LED Decorative Streetlight Fixtures

Recommended Council Action

Approve Ordinance

Context with Key Issues

The FY17 Capital Budget included \$50,000 for replacing existing decorative streetlight fixtures in Old Takoma with a more energy efficient LED fixture. The existing fixtures had been in place for decades, and were in deteriorating condition. The Department previously identified a fixture type for the replacement fixtures and received Historic Preservation Commission approval for the replacement fixture. The Department identified a competitively bid contract through Anne Arundel County, MD to C. N. Robinson Lighting Supply Co for the purchase of the recommended street light fixture and bulb. The streetlight poles will not be replaced (unless they are damaged). The poles will be repainted black to match the fixture and the rest of the decorative streetlights in the 7100 block of Carroll and in Takoma Junction.

The Department brought this project for the replacement of 26 fixture heads and bulbs to the Council for discussion on June 14, 2017. Due to concerns raised by a community member about the proposed change to an LED bulb, the Council requested sample fixtures be installed to include a 3000 kelvin and a 2700 kelvin fixture. Those were installed in the summer of 2017.

Since that time Department staff have had to make repairs to the existing fixtures as the bulbs burned out. In those cases, a screw-in LED bulb was used. Those bulbs were intended to be a short-term fix until the recommended fixtures with more appropriate LED bulbs could be ordered. The screw-in LED was 23 watts. The recommended LED bulb is 38 watts. While the energy usage is somewhat higher, the overall lighting produced by the recommended bulbs is more appropriate for the lighting needs of the area. There were also issues related to the sensor controls for the lights. They had historically been controlled by sensors on Pepco poles. In recent years these sensors have been failing repeatedly. When they fail it has been difficult to get Pepco to respond in a timely fashion to make repairs. As a result, the City began the process of installing sensors on the fixtures and working with Pepco to remove the pole sensors. All sensor control changes for the decorative lights in Old Takoma should be completed in January.

The City has received numerous requests from the Old Takoma Business Association and individual business owners for improvements to be made to the lighting quality of the decorative fixtures on Carroll and Laurel Avenues.

The total number of fixture heads to be replaced for this project is 24. They are located on Carroll Avenue, between Columbia Avenue and Willow Ave and also on Laurel Avenue.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Prepared by: Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director

Posted 2020/01/07

Approved by: Suzanne Ludlow, City Manager

Environmental Considerations

LED fixtures are more energy efficient than prior lighting sources. They have a very long life, which will reduce maintenance costs and provide a more attractive night time lighting level for the area.

Fiscal Considerations

The FY17 CIP included \$50,000 for the project. Since that time, the City has purchased and installed the sample fixtures and some replacement bulbs. The remaining balance of the funding is \$43,448. The cost to purchase 24 fixtures is \$39,750.

Racial Equity Considerations

Replacement of the fixtures with LED fixtures reduces maintenance needs for the streetlights, allowing the Department of Public Works to more systematically address citywide needs. The streetlights will provide more appropriate lighting levels for a commercial district that serves Takoma Park and nearby Washington, D.C. The lighting will directly improve pedestrian safety for the residents of Victory Tower, a building for seniors and persons with disabilities, a majority of whom are people of color. A majority of the residents of Takoma Park's Ward 1 and 3 are white. Demographic information for the area in Washington, D.C. immediately adjacent to the Old Takoma commercial district is not easily available, but in the 20012 zip code area, 19% of the population is white.

Attachments and Links

Draft Ordinance

Introduced by:

Single Reading:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 2020 -**

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF LED DECORATIVE STREETLIGHT FIXTURES

WHEREAS, The FY20 Capital Budget included funds to replace existing deteriorating decorative streetlight fixtures in Old Town with energy efficient fixtures; and,

WHEREAS, Department staff received approval from the Historic Preservation Commission to replace the existing decorative lights with a fixture made by Philips Hadco, and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department has identified a contract for lighting awarded by Anne Arundel County, MD to C. N. Robinson Lighting Supply Co.; and

WHEREAS, The Department has installed a sample LED fixture on an existing decorative streetlight pole and determined it meets our requirements for lighting level and appearance; and

WHEREAS, The Department would like to purchase 24 LED fixtures to replace existing decorative streetlight fixtures in Old Town.

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

Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with C.N. Robinson Lighting Co. for the purchase of 24 LED fixtures at a total cost of \$39,750.

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of January 15, 2020 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT