



## Agenda Item Summary Report

**Meeting Date:**  
January 13, 2025

**Submitted by:**  
Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator

**Item Title:** PEPCO| Street Light Update – January 2025

This report provides the Town Council with an update on the Street Lights in Bladensburg.

**Work Session Item [X]**  
**Council Meeting Item [X]**

**Documentation Attached:**  
PEPCO Documents  
FAQ, Draft Contract

**Recommended Action:**

Provide staff with feedback on the materials and provide any direction to staff on how to proceed.

**Summary:** Over the past six months, the Town has collaborated with PEPCO on a comprehensive lighting survey to assess the billing and ownership of streetlights within Town boundaries. This effort led to the removal of several fixtures and a refund of \$27,000 to the Town. These actions were part of the preparation for the PEPCO Outdoor Lighting Virtual Town Hall, held on November 12, 2024. Following the meeting, Town staff consulted with the Town Attorney in December 2024 to determine the next steps.

### Meeting Summaries

#### November 2024 | PEPCO Outdoor Lighting Virtual Town Hall

The Virtual Town Hall, led by Andrew Sindall, focused on improving streetlight infrastructure and billing processes. Key highlights included:

- PEPCO has developed a standardized streetlight catalog and updated the Cooper Reporting tool.
- Findings from surveys of over 113,000 streetlight assets.
- Closure of high-pressure sodium (HPS) light schedules and introduction of LED conversion tariffs.
- Billing updates, including detailed tariff schedules and cost implications for LED conversions.

A Q&A session addressed concerns regarding conversion costs, maintenance responsibilities, and color temperature preferences. Attendees were provided a feedback timeline and updates on developing a dedicated outdoor lighting website. Action items emphasized transparency and improved communication with municipalities regarding streetlight purchases and maintenance.

#### December 2024 | Meeting with Town Attorney

The legal consultation with Suellen Ferguson addressed streetlight billing, ownership, and financial strategies. Key points included:

- Discussion of strategies to negotiate monthly payment reductions.
- Received advice on the PEPCO to sell existing poles and urgency to purchase before LED replacement increases costs.
- Discussed the planning for council budget allocations for light purchases and maintenance.

## Other Matters

### Streetlight Repairs

The Town recently received an update regarding the streetlight outage at 4405 Tilden Road. PEPCO has committed to addressing this issue by the end of the week. Staff established contact with a new PEPCO team, gaining additional insights previously unavailable. We will use the system to ensure that other previously submitted items will be forwarded to this team.

### Next Steps

1. **Streetlight Pricing:** Staff is awaiting definitive pricing from PEPCO and will bring this information to the Council once received.
2. **Collaboration with Municipal Partners:** Staff will continue working with other municipalities to determine streetlight ownership and management strategies.
3. **Outage Updates:** Staff will inform the Council about outstanding and pending outage requests.
4. **Budget Discussion:** This will be added to the overall budget discussion. The Town has been adding Lights outside of the PEPCO process on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There has been grant funding, but we will look at whether we can use these funds with PEPCO.

The Town Administrator will be available to answer any questions regarding this matter.

**Budgeted Item:** Yes [ ☐ ] No [ ☒ ]

**Budgeted Amount:** \$ TBD

**One-Time Cost:** Ongoing

**Ongoing Cost:**

**Council Priority:** Yes [ ☐ ] No [ ☐ ]

**Continued Date:**

**Approved Date:**