TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT
Engineering Department

MEETING DATE:	April 9, 2024
PROJECT:	Consideration of a Proposed Lighting Agreement with Dominion Energy for Boundary Street Lighting Project (Fiscal Impact – $26,425.36 over a 10-year term)
PROJECT MANAGER:	Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience

REQUEST: Town Staff requests that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a Lighting Agreement (Attachment 1) with Dominion Energy to install and maintain the pedestrian pathway lighting along Boundary Street. The fiscal impact is comprised of two parts. An upfront facility construction cost of $21,178.96 and an annual electricity cost of $524.64. Both are within the approved budget limit for Fiscal Year FY2024, illustrated on the attached Project Data Sheet (Attachment 2). The term of the Lighting Agreement is ten years with a total fiscal impact of $26,425.36. This agreement mirrors the approach taken on Wharf Street. In this agreement, the Town will pay upfront for the poles and other associated costs. Choosing to do so will save the Town approximately $7,256.24 over the duration of the agreement. Due to the multi-year commitment, staff is bringing the agreement before Council.

BACKGROUND: Boundary Street is a Town of Bluffton owned road located in the Historic District of Old Town Bluffton. This agreement covers the street lighting on Boundary Street between Maiden Lane and Bridge Street, and it is not anticipated to require any easements to complete the project. If any easements are needed, once the final terms have been agreed to by the parties, those agreements will be brought before the Council for approval. Construction of the lighting improvements is anticipated to be complete in 2024.

The attached lighting plan illustrates the proposed lighting for the roadway and pedestrian areas (Attachment 3). The plan illustrates LED fixture locations including 5 shepherd's crook style fixtures. With proper approval through Dominion Energy, the Town will install safety cameras on some of the light poles for monitoring the passage of pedestrians and cars throughout the corridor.

Phase I was completed when SCDOT owned Boundary Street. Phase I provided lights from May River Road to Maiden Lane. Phase II will be a continuation of Phase I providing the same Shepherds Crook lights utilized in the previous phase. The proposed lighting will be located along

the western side of the Boundary Street Right of Way and will serve as an important safety feature for residents and visitors who live and visit this area of the Historic District.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Following Town Council approval of this Agreement, the Town Manger will execute a contract with Dominion Energy.
2. Staff and Dominion Energy will coordinate the installation of the necessary conduit.
3. Upon receipt of the poles and fixtures (8 to 12 weeks), Dominion Energy will schedule the installation of the lights prior to the end of this calendar year.

SUMMARY: This project originated from the Town of Bluffton's Comprehensive Plan and FY 2021-2024 Strategic Plans. It is supportive of the following guiding principles of the Town:

- Community Quality of Life Strategic Focus Area, Guiding Principle #5: Foster and support place-based initiatives and evaluate community policies, programs, gathering places, and events that promote healthy and quality lifestyles for our diverse citizenry.

- Infrastructure Strategic Focus Area, Guiding Principal #3: Establish long-term planning, prioritization and investment strategies for future infrastructure and facilities that improve the quality of life for citizens while being financially sustainable.

Consistent with the above Guiding Principles, Staff is requesting Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the Lighting Agreement with Dominion Energy to install and maintain roadway and pedestrian pathway lighting along Boundary Street between May River Road and Bridge Street.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Lighting Agreement
2. Project Data Sheet
3. Lighting Plan
4. Proposed Motion