

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



MEETING DATE:	April 9, 2024
PROJECT:	Consideration of a Proposed Lighting Agreement with Dominion Energy for the New Riverside Village Park Project (Fiscal Impact – \$65,664.69 over a 10-year term)
PROJECT MANAGER:	Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience

REQUEST: Town Staff requests that Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a Lighting Agreement (Attachment 1) with Dominion Energy to install and maintain the pedestrian pathway lighting at New Riverside Village Park. The fiscal impact is comprised of two parts. An upfront facility construction cost of \$59,113.89 and an annual electricity cost of \$655.08. 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 \$65,664.69. 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 \$20,254.11 over the duration of the agreement. Due to the multi-year commitment, staff is bringing the agreement before Council.

BACKGROUND: The 2.5-acre New Riverside Village property was transferred to the Town of Bluffton as part of the Land Swap Agreement and Public-Private Development Contract dated October 2020 for use as a passive park and public gathering space. The Conceptual Master Plan was presented in February 2020 Town Council. Pursuant to the Contract, the Town is obligated to provide site furnishings, lighting, and signage to the park. The site lighting as part of the required infrastructure will be provided by Dominion Energy under this Agreement.

The attached lighting plan illustrates the proposed lighting for the pedestrian pathway (Attachment 3). The plan illustrates LED fixture locations including fourteen (14) round style fixtures to complement the existing village street lighting.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Following Town Council approval of this Agreement, the Town Manager will execute a contract with Dominion Energy.
2. Staff will coordinate the installation of the necessary conduit.
3. Upon receipt of the poles and fixtures (six to eight weeks from execution of the Agreement), Dominion Energy will endeavor to schedule the installation of the lights prior to June 30.

SUMMARY: This project originated from the Town of Bluffton's Comprehensive Plan and FY2021-2024 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 site lighting at the New Riverside Village Park.

ATTACHMENTS:

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