

## TOWN COUNCIL

### STAFF REPORT

#### Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	April 9, 2024
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Consideration of a Proposed Lighting Agreement with Dominion Energy for Wharf Street Lighting Project (Fiscal Impact – \$153,648.58 over a 10-year term)
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	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 2) with Dominion Energy to install and maintain the pedestrian pathway lighting along Wharf Street. The fiscal impact is comprised of two parts. An upfront facility construction cost of \$139,801.78 and an annual electricity cost of \$1,684.68. Both are within the approved budget limit for Fiscal Year FY2024, illustrated on the attached Project Data Sheet (Attachment 3). The term of the Lighting Agreement is ten years with a total fiscal impact of \$153,648.58. This agreement is a slight departure from prior Dominion lighting agreements approved by the Council for Oyster Factory Park and New Riverside Barn Park. In this agreement, the Town will pay upfront for the poles and other associated costs. Choosing to do so will save the Town approximately \$47,901.02 over the duration of the agreement. Due to the multi-year commitment and initial capital outlay, staff is bringing the agreement before Council.

**BACKGROUND:** Wharf Street is an SCDOT owned road located in the Historic District of Old Town Bluffton. This agreement covers the street lighting on Wharf Street between May River Road and Bridge Street and will require a few easements to complete the project. Easement discussions are underway with Property Owners and 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 4). The plan illustrates LED fixture locations including 18 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.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Following Town Council approval of this Agreement, the Town Manager will execute a contract with Dominion Energy.
- Staff and Dominion Energy will coordinate the installation of the necessary conduit.

- 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 Wharf Street between May River Road and Bridge Street.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

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