

COBURG CITY COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORTS



TOPIC: Street Lighting in Coburg

Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Staff Contact: Anne Heath, City Administrator

Contact: 541-682-7870, anne.heath@ci.coburg.or.us

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Information Only

Council may elect to give staff direction if they wish to create a project around street lighting in residential areas. This would be added to the staff work plan as developed during the goal setting process

CITY COUNCIL GOAL

Livability, Health and Vitality

BACKGROUND

As the City has continued to grow with new neighborhoods and residents there has been many questions and concerns raised regarding the lack of street lights in new and existing neighborhoods. Recently this question was raised by a City Council member who asked if staff could bring a report to City Council regarding the history, and language in the comprehensive plan and the zoning code regarding street lighting.

HISTORY

Historically street lights have not been placed in residential neighborhoods in Coburg. There was an effort to alleviate bright lighting that would interfere with the natural night sky. There are minimal street lights in Coburg mostly set aside for the arterial roads.

There has been much discussion regarding retaining the night sky. There is a perception that this is what the citizens wanted and indeed it could have been discussed in past years. However, at this time it is mentioned only as it pertains to the industrial zone. The only tools that the City staff have at this time to work with is what is adopted in resolutions, plans and ordinances. I have researched our Comprehensive Plan and the Planning Code and have listed references to street lighting below. If there is general consensus that there are changes that need to take place in these documents, then that would be a staff project as discussed above.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Ordinance A-199-H - 5/8/2018

Goal 12 - Transportation

Policy 3: Improve the aesthetics of streets and streetscapes, especially at City entrance ways such as Interstate 5 interchange area. Aesthetic improvements may address: street design, trees, **lighting**, utility lines, sidewalks, park strips, noise abatement, etc.

Policy 9.6: Require the consistent use of parking area design standards, such as landscaping, placement, **and lighting** and other amenities

Policy 12.2: Encourage pedestrian and bicycle activity through street design standards that include features such as narrower neighborhood street pavement widths, walkable block lengths and perimeters, alleys for vehicle access, **attractive street lighting**, and landscaping.

Policy 38: In commercial and industrial areas the City shall consider strategies that support limiting space devoted to off-street parking through the establishment of parking ratio maximums, reducing minimum parking requirements, providing credit for on-street parking, and encouraging shared parking whenever feasible. Also require parking lot design standards, such as landscaping, placement, **lighting** and other amenities.

URBANIZATION – Residential Land Use

Policy 38: The City shall allow limited retail development next to residential areas and within industrial districts. Ensure the compatibility of this commercial development with the surrounding uses by applying standards for design, compatible hours of operation, noise, **lighting**, emissions, maximum building size, and types of goods and services sold.

DEVELOPMENT CODE
As Amended November 2019

Commercial and Industrial – Page 88

c. Exterior Lighting

Outdoor lighting must be controlled in order to reduce light pollution, **preserve the night sky** for astronomy, protect flora and fauna from the negative effects of artificial light, and conserve energy.

All **exterior lighting** shall be shielded and reflected downward, as shown in Figure VIII.L.5.c., to minimize glare and prevent light trespass on adjacent parcels, other land uses, and street rights-of-way.

Land Use Review and Approval Criteria

g. That, based on anticipated traffic generation, adequate additional transportation improvements must be provided by the development in order to promote traffic safety and reduce traffic congestion, including but not limited to right-of-way and road improvements. Consistent with the Transportation System Plan, consideration shall be given to the need and feasibility of widening and improving abutting streets ***and also to the necessity for such additional requirements as lighting***, traffic-calming techniques, sidewalks and other pedestrian ways, bikeways, and turn and deceleration/acceleration lanes.

BUDGET

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

Council may elect to delay a staff project until their next goal setting process in February 21.

Other Consideration/Option

The Public Works Team has recently placed a solar powered street light in the vicinity of Jacob Spores Park. This was a request of the neighborhood and they decided to test this form of lighting. They are in the process of testing this light and will have more data at a later date. This could be an alternative to selectively placing street lights in dark areas for a relatively low price of under \$400.00.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff is comfortable with the Council giving direction to create a new project and therefore recommend that they do so if it is their wish.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will act according to the Council direction.

ATTACHMENTS

None
