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TOWN OF JEROME

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STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

FROM: Brett Klein, Town Manager/Clerk

ITEM: **Item: Ordinance No. 490, Amending the Jerome Zoning Ordinance – Exterior Lighting**

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2024

Summary:

Staff have been working on this dark sky compliant exterior lighting ordinance for nearly a year. The draft came to the Council for input and direction. A proposed final draft was then sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission who held the requisite public hearing on the proposed ordinance on April 16, 2024. The following items were identified as potential changes:

- 1) There were questions regarding dark sky compliance and negative impact on public safety. Studies conducted and indicated on darkskies.org show no decrease in public safety;
- 2) Section E, 2nd line stated, “particular care is to be taken...”. This was deemed to be too ambiguous. It has been changed to be explicitly clear.
- 3) Section C.4.a. “Emergency Lighting” stated, “Lighting used only under emergency conditions” was also deemed to be too ambiguous. It has been changed to identify officials who can authorize emergency lighting. Situations were not included because there are too many possibilities.
- 4) The Commission discussed incentivizing compliance with the new lighting standards and thought waiving Desing Review Fees could be one idea. This is not recommended for a variety of reasons. Moreover, this new ordinance will only impact new development or changes, both of which we do not get a large amount of.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend approval of Ordinance No. 490 with the changes.