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**To:** Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

**From:** Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

**Date:** March 26, 2025

**Subject:** Public Works Garage Relamp Proposal

The City recently received a proposal from Retrofit Electric, a division of The Retrofit Companies, Inc., to retrofit the lighting at the Public Works Garage. This project is being proposed in response to a new Minnesota state law that phases out the sale of fluorescent light bulbs in the state.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has announced that, under state law, the sale of most linear fluorescent lamps, including T12, T8, and T5 varieties, will be prohibited beginning January 1, 2026. This follows an earlier ban on screw-base and bayonet-base compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which took effect on January 1, 2025. These changes are part of the state's ongoing mercury reduction efforts and energy efficiency initiatives.

In light of this, Retrofit Electric has proposed the following LED lighting upgrade for the Public Works Garage:

- Retrofitting 71 existing fluorescent fixtures, including new vapor-tight fixtures in the wash bay.
- Installing high-efficiency 17W, 2,500 lumen LED lamps in the garage areas and 4000K CCT lamps in office/restroom spaces.
- Rewiring task lighting in the northwest corner of the building for safer, code-compliant operation.

Total project cost: \$12,000, with an estimated Connexus Energy rebate of \$418.38 payable to the City. The project will be funded from the City's Building Maintenance and Renewal Fund (Fund 416).

In addition to ensuring compliance with the forthcoming state ban, this project provides notable operational benefits:

- Energy savings: Reduces annual lighting cost from \$3,322 to \$1,753, saving approximately \$1,569 per year.
- Maintenance savings: Estimated at \$259 annually for the first five years.
- Environmental impact: Annual reduction of 10,459 kWh and 7 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Payback: Estimated simple payback period of 6.3 years, with a Return on Investment (ROI) of 33.92%.

The proposal utilizes Cooperative Purchasing Connection (CPC) Contract #24.5, streamlining procurement and ensuring competitive pricing.

Staff recommends approval of the proposal to bring the Public Works Garage into compliance with state law, improve energy efficiency, and reduce long-term operating costs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Works Director George Linngren at 763-784-6491.