



# AGENDA ITEM MEMORADUM

Item No. 166

**Municipal Services**

Department

**Don Prince**

Director of Municipal Services

<b>COMMISSION MEETING DATE (*) - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Deadline to Town Clerk</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> November 29, 2011	November 23 <sup>rd</sup>

*\*Subject to Change*

- |                                       |   |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Reports        | <input type="checkbox"/> Consent                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ordinance</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution   | <input type="checkbox"/> Quasi-Judicial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Old Business | <input type="checkbox"/> New Business     |

**FY2011 DESIGNATED HIGH PRIORITY ITEM - PRIORITY TOPIC: STREET LIGHTING**

**SUBJECT TITLE: Streetlighting Update**

**EXPLANATION:** The Commission asked staff to evaluate the adequacy of street lighting in the Town's residential neighborhoods. We started by visiting the Silver Shores neighborhoods where it was observed that a few street front lights were out and almost all of the lights in the system that runs between the backyards of the homes were out. (With the exception of North Tradewinds Ave and Harbor Drive, all of the power lines in the area are located at the rear of the residential properties.) Requests were immediately submitted to FP&L to get those lights operating again, but we have ongoing problems with FP&L's responsiveness to service requests. As of this week, they had only gotten 13 lights of 27 requests back in operation despite repeated calls to them.

The lighting along the back of the properties is an odd arrangement and we have been told anecdotally that many residents do not like those lights and are happy they are out. Others have suggested that, if those lights were operating, they would provide light to the streets which seems unlikely to staff. Nevertheless, once those lights are on again, I am certain we will hear from the residents.

The back property lighting aside, it is obvious that the spacing of the existing street front lights is inadequate to provide a consistent level of lighting in the neighborhood. We chose the Silver Shores area from Seagrape Drive west to West Tradewinds and Harbor Drive north to North Tradewinds as an initial area for analysis. A lighting survey done by Town staff that excluded the new decorative streetlights on Seagrape Drive showed there were thirty seven (37) existing FPL owned lights were found in that neighborhood. Town staff considered several options that would be more cost effective and address the concerns of the residents.

**OPTIONS**

- 1) FP&L suggested that the easiest and most cost effective option would be to increase the wattage of the current bulbs from 70 watts to a 100 watt bulb. The annual cost for the thirty seven (37) existing lights would be approximately \$205 and FPL says they can make those changes relatively quickly. That solution, however, would not address the problem that there seems to be no rhyme nor reason to the placement of street front light poles in the neighborhood and long stretches of the roads have no lighting at all.
- 2) A second option is to have FP&L put cobra head lamps on the 4 wooden poles already in the neighborhood and add 9 more poles and lights. FP&L advised that the electric to those 9 poles would have to be run from their service lines in the back of the properties, which would require easements from the property owners whose property the line would traverse and that they will not consider running



service through locations where large trees or substantial landscaping exists. Trees planted in line with power poles greatly limit the Town's options for new lighting.

Given those limitations, we see 13 potential locations ( four have existing poles)where lights could be added if the Town or FP&L could get easements from the property owners. FPL was asked to give us a price for 13 additional lights, but they advised FPL's engineer must visit each site prior to giving pricing.

- 3) The most expensive option would be to install a completely new system of lighting fixtures and establish electrical service along the streets. Assumed the Town Commission would not want unsightly wires overhead, this would require underground work for the electrical wires. This would entail restoration to the right of way which could include expensive pavers or stamped concrete driveways. The light fixtures and poles alone for the North Seagrape Drive project was \$144,000 for twenty four (24) decorative street lights (approximately \$6,000 for each light). The lighting on Seagrape was done in conjunction with a \$1.1 million streetscape project where the right of way was already being torn up and sidewalks put in, so the \$144,000 does not begin to reflect all the costs that would be associated with doing a lighting project of the magnitude required to install lighting through an entire neighborhood. The Town could request a proposal from one of the firms on the continuing services contract to do some preliminary estimates of cost if the Commission desires.

**Staff Recommendation:** We recommend the Commission

- 1) Authorize the Town Manager to pursue option #1, a streetlight agreement with FPL to increase the wattage on thirty seven (37) existing lights from 70 watts to 100 watts and observe the impact;
- 2) Formally ask FP&L to give us estimates on Option #2 and identify those locations they would be willing to add lights; and
- 3) Ask two engineering firms that have continuing contracts for design with us to give us quotes on analyzing the probable cot to install lighting similar to what exists on Seagrape Drive throughout the entire project area.

Reviewed by Town Attorney  
 Yes  No

Town Manager Initials CJA