



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Henry Holling, Interim City Manager

AGENDA DATE REQUESTED: May 12, 2009

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF ATTACHED REVISIONS TO THE CITY'S GENERAL POLICY FOR INSTALLATION OF STREET AND ALLEY LIGHTING.

BACKGROUND: The existing policy on street light installation was last reviewed several years ago. Changes in the recent past by Ameren CILCO have dictated a need for City Council input on the changes to City policy, as further explained below. The existing policy followed by Public Works is attached, for reference. The proposed changes in this policy are stricken for delineation.

The reason for this change at this time is a change in Ameren CILCO policy which now passes along to the City the costs associated with the installation of a new pole, brackets and equipment at a new site, including extending power. Three recent requests have brought this matter to the forefront for the Department. The first is for a new light on Radnor Road just north of Willow Knolls, at the drive to a new business on the northwest corner at this location. The second is for a new light at Radnor Road and Alta Lane. The third is a request for a new street light on Big Hollow Road just north of Charter Oak Road, on the hill at the dead-end drive about half-way up the hill. The costs for these installations are as follows:

Radnor Road @ Willow Knolls	\$5,060	plus \$187.08 annually
Radnor @ Alta Lane	\$2,410	plus \$97.56 annually
Big Hollow Road	\$1,265	plus \$97.56 annually

The major changes in the policy include the following:

1. In section I we are suggesting that installations that involve less than \$250 be handled by staff without the need for City Council approval. We believe this will move these requests forward quicker. For requests that involve expense in excess of \$250 that City Council will be asked to approve these new installations. At the present time the costs for new installations in excess of the normal annual operating costs have been paid from our supply funds included in the Public Works budget. There are not enough funds in this supply account (budgeted about \$16,000 annually) to continue to cover these requests for new street lights. **A source of funds will need to be identified for these new installations or a cost sharing program will need to be established. City Council direction on this matter is requested.**
2. The section on alley lights is not changing but, for information, most alleys do not have existing facilities so the costs have been high and are not generally approved. Residents wishing alley lighting are referred to the "Alley Light" program where the City assists with the cost of installing private lights on garages at the alley location. This program is handled by Planning & Growth Management's Neighborhoods Division.
3. At the time the current policy was developed, there was still an issue about the cost effectiveness of the high pressure sodium lights versus the mercury vapor lights. Since that time we have standardized high pressure sodium lights. This last paragraph is no longer necessary.

Staff is seeking approval from City Council to modify the current policy regarding the installation of street lights based on cost allocation changes by Ameren CILCO. If these changes are approved, a funding source for new street light installations will need to be identified to handle future requests.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The financial impact of these changes will depend on the number of new light requests received and how City Council wishes to pay for the additional facilities costs associated with individual requests. If these changes are approved, a funding source for new street light installations will need to be identified to handle future requests.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS: Additional street lights are requested numerous times throughout the year by residents seeking additional lighting to address safety concerns. An adequate funding source and updated policy will allow staff to meet these requests.

IMPACT IF APPROVED: Updating this policy will allow staff to address requests in a timely manner and will also allow for an appropriate funding level for these requests.

IMPACT IF DENIED: The existing policy will remain in effect and each request for a new light will need to be brought forward for City Council consideration. A funding source still needs to be identified.

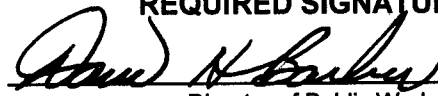
EEO CERTIFICATION NUMBER: NA

RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: This policy change is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan under:

1. Infrastructure - Goal A: Provide safe and efficient infrastructure and utilities, and
2. Neighborhoods - Goal B: Create, maintain and strengthen viable neighborhoods and housing stock.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Department Director



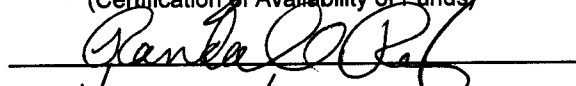
Director of Public Works

Finance Director

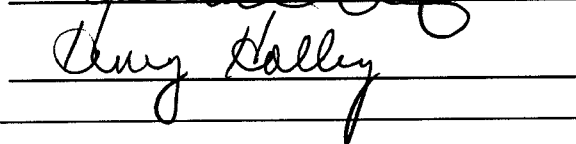


(Certification of Availability of Funds)

Corporation Counsel



City Manager



GENERAL POLICY FOR INSTALLATION OF STREET AND ALLEY LIGHTING

This Policy outlines the general procedures and policy criteria for governing the installation of street and alley lighting on facilities owned by the Ameren Central Illinois Light Company (CILCO). Also included are recommendations for changes in the residential ornamental street light standards and a section dealing with lighting the high volume arterial streets and commercial areas.

I. EXISTING POLICY

Requests for street or alley lighting are received by the Engineering Division from many sources. They may be initiated by staff or individual citizens, homeowners associations, administrative staff, business people or the City Council. The requests are directed to the ~~Utilities Coordinator~~ **Traffic Operations Manager** for processing. Within a week of receipt, the request is field-checked.

The field check will review the following:

- 1) distance to existing lights;
- 2) obstructions, such as trees or structures;
- 3) roadway condition, such as hills, curves, sharp dips or rises;
- 4) any other special features which might affect the need for a light.

When all issues are resolved, a communication ~~is~~ **may be** prepared for City Council. **If the cost for installation and the total annual cost for operation of the new light is less than \$250, the matter will be handled internally by staff. If the new installation costs exceed \$250, a communication will be prepared for City Council approval.** The communication will list the annual cost for the proposed light, including any additional facilities charge, together with a location map ~~and a resolution~~. ~~Once this resolution the new street light installation~~ is approved by the City Council, ~~the request~~ **it** is forwarded to Ameren CILCO. This is their authorization to install the light. In those cases when we deny a lighting request, the individual requesting the light is informed of the denial and the reason for same.

II. FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Residential street lighting is provided on streets with low vehicular and pedestrian traffic density by contractual agreement between the City and Ameren CILCO. Under terms of the agreement, ~~the Company~~ **Ameren CILCO** erects and maintains bracket-mounted overhead street lights on existing company-owned poles. The City has a choice

of several standard-type fixtures to serve the variety of physical situations existing. Each particular fixture, mounting maintenance and energy are provided by a fixed annual charge established by the Illinois Commerce Commission. ~~No installation charge is assessed by Ameren CILCO.~~

Light fixtures are designed to be mounted on 4, 8 or 15-foot curb line extension brackets, which place the fixture at an elevation 25 feet above the street approximately at the curb line. Lights are usually mounted on one side of the street following the pattern of existing poles.

In areas where the existing electric service is either at the rear of the lot, **on a pole not the one proposed for the new installation**, or underground, it is **may be** necessary to set additional poles or **extend electric service**. Service to the new poles will be either overhead or underground, depending on the type of electrical service in the area. In these cases, there is an additional facilities charge over the fixed annual charge for the specified light. The specific location of the street light is often dictated by the need for access to a transformer.

III. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The street lighting policy which we currently operate under is based upon an informal City Council policy in the 1954-55 era. That policy called for a 6000 lumen incandescent light as the standard placed at an interval of not less than 300 feet. This spacing could be decreased due to obstructions, curves, hills, or other physical features.

Because our average block length is 440 feet between street centerlines and because average pole placement distance on Ameren Central Illinois Light Company power lines ranges from 125' to 150', placement of street lights has evolved under normal conditions to placement at intersections only. Mid-block lights are sometimes placed when distance between intersections or other physical consideration would justify.

With the advent of the mercury vapor light in the early 1960's, the City and Ameren CILCO adopted a new standard for street lighting. The old 6000 lumen incandescent light was replaced by 4000 and 8000 lumen mercury vapor lights. These two lights were the standard for several years. In about 1979, CILCO dropped the 4000 lumen light for new installations. Since that time, we have installed only 8000 lumen lights.

There are many variables which affect the useful light; the reflective quality of the immediate environment, including the color and width of the pavement, existence of sidewalks, heavy brush, trees, shrubbery, and even the color and spacing of structures. Generally, these factors are not taken directly into consideration within our lighting policy. However, municipal ordinances do provide that trees shall not obstruct street lights, that growth on public ways may be controlled by the City, that houses shall be set back, and that sidewalks, when constructed, shall be concrete.

IV. ALLEY LIGHTING POLICY

No known policy has, or is recommended to be formulated for alley lighting, although over 190 alley lights are in use today. In recent years, most requests for lights in alleys have been denied.

The Administration plans to eliminate non-conforming alley lighting by attrition over the next several years.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Administration believes that the equipment, fixtures, and placement on residential street lighting available to the City, by agreement with Ameren CILCO under present policy is acceptable. Based upon this belief, we make the following recommendations:

- A. The City will maintain a policy of installing 8000 lumen mercury vapor lights on existing or additional facilities owned by Ameren CILCO. Lights shall be installed at each intersection and at intervals of not less than 300 feet between intersections, unless obstructions, curves, hills, or other features require shorter intervals.
- B. The City may provide alley lighting in the Central Business District and other commercial areas where auxiliary lighting can be justified. This illumination will often be provided by the proper placement of street lights.

~~C. The City Administration and Ameren CILCO shall continue to review new technology in the lighting field for possible improvements. One area of current change is to the high pressure sodium lamp. As the cost of high pressure sodium lights approaches the cost of mercury vapor lights, a timely proposal will be made for a programmed conversion of the existing system from mercury vapor to high pressure sodium. Until such time as a system conversion takes place, high pressure sodium lighting in residential areas will be considered for specific residential situations where higher intensity lighting is desired for safety purposes. A cost analysis will, in these instances, be presented to the City Council for their consideration.~~