

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: November 20, 2018

To: The City Manager

From: Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager,
Aaron King, Director of Planning and Development Services

Council Action Requested:

UDO-286 Lighting Ordinance

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods
Strategic Objective: Improve Character and Condition of Neighborhoods
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Planning and Development Services staff presented UDO-286 at the October Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee meeting. UDO-286 proposes revised outdoor lighting standards for development in Winston-Salem. Planning and Development Services staff is scheduled to present additional information on UDO-286 to the CD/H/GG Committee at its November 20th meeting. This item details responses to questions raised by Committee members in October.

Street Lighting

In October, the Committee asked several questions related to including street lights in UDO-286. Regulation of street lights was not proposed in UDO-286 as our development ordinance does not regulate development within the rights-of-way. Rather, UDO-286 includes lighting standards for all property beyond rights-of-way, and the proposed ordinance treats all property the same, whether it is City-owned or privately owned. This regulatory approach is consistent with our peer cities of Greensboro, Raleigh, Durham, and Charlotte.

Committee Action:

Committee		Action
For	_____	Against
Remarks:	_____	_____

Standards for street lights are articulated in an adopted street lighting policy. This policy recognizes the City's current street light leasing agreement with Duke Energy and attempts to balance safe lighting levels in rights-of-way with preventing excessive light trespass onto private property. The most recent street lighting policy, adopted by Council in 2015, makes LED fixtures standard for new street lighting installations and replacements of failing mercury vapor fixtures. The LED fixtures currently being installed in the City are 50-watt to 280-watt cutoff fixtures, but they still allow some backlight to spill onto private property. If citizens are unhappy with the streetlights on their street, current policy allows the citizens to ask that these lights be removed. Light removal requests are presented to the Public Works Committee with a staff recommendation, and the Committee makes the ultimate decision in these matters.

Public Works staff will attend the November CD/H/GG meeting to answer any further questions on this topic. If Council would like to revisit the current street lighting policy, a Duke Energy lighting specialist can be invited to a future Public Works Committee meeting to discuss this issue.

Recreation Facilities

The Committee also inquired as to whether there was a plan to update lighting at City parks and recreation facilities. As per Recreation and Parks Director William Royston, there is no plan to comprehensively update the lighting at parks and recreation facilities. Instead, lighting is being updated incrementally, as budgets allow and when capital is allocated for renovations.

Staff will be at the November CD/H/GG Committee meeting to assist Council as it continues discussing this item.