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Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Public Works Director

Date: February 24, 2020

Subject: **Resolution to Increase the Assessment of the Annual Cost of Maintaining and Operating Streetlights in Established Streetlight Districts**

BACKGROUND

Historically in DeKalb County, and subsequently Dunwoody, streetlights have been provided in single-family neighborhoods through a petition process whereby the residents along each public street agree to pay for the operating and maintenance costs of the lights through a special assessment on their property tax bills. Since the city last adjusted the streetlight rate paid by property owners within streetlight districts in 2011, the city's electric service provider, Georgia Power, has adjusted their cost recovery fees and recently was approved for a rate increase by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

In order to offset the projected streetlight costs for 2020, the rate the city currently charges per foot of property frontage in established streetlight districts needs to be increased by 18%. For most homeowners this will result in a rate increase of 6 cents per foot of frontage which equates to \$6 per year for a typical R100 lot. Larger properties with post top streetlights and underground power will experience increases up to \$30 per year.

Because the intent of the streetlight districts is for the properties in the district to pay for the cost of maintaining streetlights, the resolution also contains a provision for the city to automatically adjust the rate as needed in future years to offset cost increases by Georgia Power. An annual increase of \$1 to \$2 per property would be expected based on the historical trend of Georgia Power's cost increases.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends approval of the resolution to increase the streetlight rate by 18% in 2020 for established streetlight districts and to allow for future adjustments based on Georgia Power cost increases.

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DEKALB

RESOLUTION 2020-XX-XX

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ANNUAL COST OF MAINTAINING AND OPERATING STREETLIGHTS IN ESTABLISHED STREETLIGHT DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section II, Paragraph 6, of the Constitution of the State of Georgia of 1976, as amended in 1983 (Ga. Laws 1983, Vol. 2, Page 724) and Chapter 26 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other) of the City Code of Ordinances authorizes and empowers the City Council of the City of Dunwoody, Georgia to establish districts for the purpose of building, erecting, establishing, maintaining, and operating street lights for the illumination of the public streets, roads, and sidewalks in the City of Dunwoody, and to levy a special assessment or tax against all property served by these functions; and

WHEREAS, the City’s electric service provider, Georgia Power, has enacted rate increases and cost recovery charges since the City’s last streetlight fee increase in 2011

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA as the governing body, that for the year 2020 the special assessment levied against all property served by the functions of the established streetlight districts shall be increased by 18% over the 2019 rate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in in subsequent years the streetlight fee will be adjusted as necessary to offset utility rate increases enacted by Georgia Power, the city’s electricity provider.

IT IS ORDERED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Tax Commissioner of DeKalb County, Georgia for the collection of any and all taxes and/or special assessments and/or service charges which may be imposed against any and all businesses, residents, and property served by said facilities.

SO RESOLVED by the City Council of City of Dunwoody, Georgia this day of _____, 2020.

Approved:

Lynn P. Deutsch, Mayor

Seal

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk