

Chapter 3: Community and Economic Development

ARTICLE V

Street Lighting

(Adopted March 17, 1994; Revised September 6, 2001; Revised February 13, 2007)

Section 5.0

Residential Requests

Residential streetlights will be installed upon citizens' request based on the following criteria:

1. Where five (5) dwellings, commercial establishments, churches, schools, or a combination thereof are located on either side of a thoroughfare within a distance of 600 feet, subject to the following:
 - a. A petition shall be filed with any request for installation of streetlights. If the lights are not in a platted subdivision or if the light or lights are part of an addition of three lights or less to an existing streetlight system, whether in a subdivision or not, then the petition shall include the signature of the owner or resident of any dwelling which is located on a lot or parcel within 150 feet of the proposed location of each streetlight. If the request is for the installation of a streetlight system for an entire platted subdivision or an identifiable section of a subdivision with ten (10) or more lots, then the petition shall include the signatures of the owners or residents representing sixty (60%) percent of the subdivision or section of a subdivision to be served by the proposed streetlights.
 - b. Each light shall be on the right-of-way of a public road.
 - c. Each light will serve a minimum of three (3) dwelling units or as necessary to illuminate an intersection of public roads.
 - d. A system of three (3) lights can be installed based on #c above; or an individual light will expand an existing system of two (2) or more

lights; or there is a significant public safety reason for installing less than three (3) lights.

- e. The Department of General Services shall administer this policy on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and shall have the authority to approve requests. If the request is not approved, written notice explaining the reasons for denial shall be sent by the Department of General Services to the person submitting the request with a copy to the Board of Supervisors. Appeal of the decision of the Department of General Services to the person submitting the request with a copy to the Board of Supervisors. Appeal of the decision of the Office of Community Development shall be made to the Board of Supervisors.
2. In subdivisions with existing underground utilities or other areas, streetlights will be erected upon request of at least sixty (60%) percent of the residents of the subdivision or area to be served. Such request shall be made by written petition on a form supplied by the Department of General Services. After receipt of the petition, the Department of General Services shall:
- a. Assess the street lighting needs of the area including nearby areas which, may logically and economically be included in a street lighting program.
 - b. Maintain an overall street lighting plan in conjunction with Dominion Virginia Power, Community Electric Cooperative or other public utility company having jurisdiction, and the Virginia Department of Transportation. The plan shall include the size and location of all streetlights and a budget for both installation cost and annual service charges.
 - c. The plan and budget shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors with copies of the petition and the Department of General Services' assessment of the street lighting needs for the area. The Board may deny the request for streetlights or approve the request. If approved, the Department of General Services shall schedule the installation of the lights with Dominion Virginia Power,

Community Electric Cooperative or other public utility company having jurisdiction.

Section 5.2

Non-Residential Requests

Streetlights on the rights-of-way of public roads in developed non-residential areas will be erected based upon streetlight plans and budgets prepared by the Department of General Services as part of the Capital Improvements Program. Individual streetlights in developed non-commercial areas may be erected upon request based upon immediate public safety concerns after approval by the Board of Supervisors. Streetlights within new non-residential developments shall be installed by the developer in accordance with the requirements of the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances during the site plan review.

Section 5.3

Streetlight Standards

1. Residential Areas

- a. No light shall emit more than 8500 lumens or use more than 120 watts. Lights using less than 100 watts are encouraged as long as lights can emit the minimum lumens needed to illuminate 300 linear feet of streetscape. In addition, to account for unique topographic conditions of any site, if the applicant can demonstrate either with written confirmation from the utility company or with a photometric plan that a lower-lumen light will provide adequate coverage and not create dark zones, that light may be accepted. Otherwise, lights in the 8000-8500 lumen range are recommended.
- b. Lights shall be placed 300 feet apart, except in instances where the street frontage for any lot cannot be minimally lit without a variance to the standards for spacing. Variance requests regarding spacing standards may be approved by the Director of General Services.

- c. All street lights shall:

1. Facilitate oblong illumination parallel to the streetscape.
 2. Depending upon the product availability of the utility company, street lights shall be semi-cutoff, cutoff or full-cutoff type. If available, full-cutoff type, or the discretion of the Director of General Services, lighting meeting specification equivalent to the full-cutoff type, shall be required.
 3. Be mounted at heights not to exceed sixteen (16) feet for new installation. For installation on existing power poles, the Director of General Services shall utilize discretion in accordance with utility company specifications.
 4. Be directed downward with fixture opaquely covered on top.
- d. Each light shall be on the right-of-way of a public street.
 - e. Where options exist for utilization of a lower-energy bulb that is compatible with the desired design and able to meet minimum lumen standards, the more efficient option shall be required.
 - f. In circumstances of light failure, due to burnout or damage, the Department of General Services shall be notified. Upon notification, the Department of General Services shall be responsible for investigating possible options for lower energy replacement that meet the street light standards above prior to re-ordering the same light.
 - g. All subdivisions served by Dominion Virginia Power shall use Type 1 light fixtures that utilize a Type 3 lighting distribution pattern (per 2005 Dominion Virginia Power Outdoor Lighting Products directory).
 - h. All variance, exceptions, and code determination requests shall be handled by the Department of General Services.
2. Non-residential light standards shall be established in the individual streetlight plans for such areas. Standards shall be coordinated with

the Virginia Department of Transportation standards for roadway lighting. Each light shall be on the right-of-way of a public street.

Section 5.4

Installation and Maintenance Costs

All installation cost for installation of street lighting will be the responsibility of the requestors (petitioners). Where the proposed system lies within the dedicated right-of-way and the local power company required such installation only be contracted by the public utility, the requestor (petitioners) will sign an agreement with the County guaranteeing full payment to the County of all installation charges as well as administrative costs to the County in contracting for such installation. The requestors (petitioners) shall be responsible for the construction and operational costs for a seven (7) year period beginning with the energizing of the lighting system.

Evidence of compliance with this requirement shall be secured prior to the County's agent approving the installation. Compliance may take the form of cash to be held by the County until such installation has been completed, or such costs may be bonded with adequate surety to the satisfaction of the County's agent. The cost of operation of the lighting for a seven (7) year period, however, shall be a cash settlement as a prerequisite to the County agent's approval of the installation.

Section 5.5

Installation of lights at the request of the Board of Supervisors for public health, safety and welfare

The Board of Supervisors may also prescribe the installation of street lighting in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, based upon the following Criteria:

- a. As part of an overall master plan or other area plan being implemented by the County;
- b. As part of a Community Development Block Grant or other grant project being administered by the County; or

- c. To address vehicular and pedestrian safety concerns, after consultation with the Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Department and the Virginia Department of Transportation, as appropriate, that:
 1. Lighting deficiencies are determined to contribute to the accident rate;
 2. Where right-of-way curvature limits sight distance and causes a safety deficiency;
 3. In areas of documented high criminal activity; or,
 4. For pedestrian safety.

Section 5.6

Saving Clause

Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to preclude the installation of street lights, or the upgrading of existing street lights at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors.