

AGENDA REPORT

DATE August 6, 2002

**ITEM:** RESOLUTION 9213 CONSOLIDATE & MODIFY SPECIAL LIGHTING DISTRICT - ALLEY LIGHTING "SLD-A" NO. 1294

**INITIATED BY:** FISCAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**ACTION REQUESTED:** CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION 9213 TO CONSOLIDATE & MODIFY SPECIAL LIGHTING DISTRICT - ALLEY LIGHTING "SLD-A" NO. 1294

**PREPARED BY:** JUDY BURG, ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

**PRESENTED BY:** COLEEN BALZARINI, CITY CONTROLLER

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RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct public hearing and adopt Resolution 9213, Consolidating and Modifying Special Lighting District – Alley Lighting "SLD-A" No. 1294.

MOTION:

"I move the City Commission adopt Resolution 9213."

SYNOPSIS:

**CONSOLIDATION**

Consolidation of Special Lighting Districts No. 1061, 1165, 1222, 1226, 1258, 1259, 1273, 1276 and 1288 into a single alley lighting district Special Lighting District - Alley Lighting "SLD-A" No. 1294 is proposed in accordance with 7-12-4354, M.C.A. This would result in an estimated annual assessment in the consolidated and modified areas of \$10.81 for an average lot size of 7,953 square feet. All light fixtures, poles, and wiring, existing and proposed are of similar size, type and material found within areas throughout the City. Boundaries of the newly consolidated lighting district are outlined on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

M.C.A.7-12-4335 authorizes once a year boundary changes to existing special lighting districts, providing the change does not affect the existing costs in the district. There would be no increase to properties existing in the proposed consolidated district, as the service in those areas would not change.

BACKGROUND:

## CONSOLIDATION

On December 19, 2000, during a City Commission Work Session, Fiscal Services made a presentation on a move toward “Special Lighting Districts Consolidation”. That presentation offered the following history and proposal:

- In 1982 and 1983 over 250 individual lighting districts were consolidated into 19 districts.
- At the present time we are now back up to 45 current districts.
- All of the properties, within the several current lighting districts in Great Falls, are essentially benefiting from the same type of lights and service. Consolidation would bring assessments to a more equitable median.
- For assessment and administrative purposes we are proposing the consolidation of 31 districts into 4 districts with 14 districts remaining as they are currently.
- In the event future lighting is established, modification of one of the 4 newly consolidated districts would be done so that we are not continually creating new districts.

Brief description of Lighting Districts proposed for consolidation into Special Lighting District – Alley Lighting “SLD-A” No. 1294:

1. Consolidated Special Lighting District (SLD) 1061 was created by Resolution 7727 on August 17, 1982 for 1,052 lights within various localities throughout the City.
2. Consolidated SLD 1165 was created by Resolution 7726 on August 17, 1982 for 426 lights within various localities throughout the City.
3. Consolidated SLD 1222 was created by Resolution 7729 on August 17, 1982 for 89 lights within various localities throughout the City.
4. SLD 1226 was created by Resolution 7775 on January 4, 1983 for 2 lights within the area bounded between 8<sup>th</sup> Alley South between 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Streets South and within Block 7, Dudley-Anderson Addition and Block 3, Third Supplement to Sunrise Homes Addition.
5. SLD 1258 (#493415) was created by Resolution 8268 on April 4, 1989 for 4 lights within the area bounded by 7<sup>th</sup> Alley NW between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Street NW.
6. SLD 1259 was created by Resolution 8326 on November 8, 1989 for 2 lights within the area bounded by 3<sup>rd</sup> Alley South between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Street South.
7. SLD 1273 was created by Resolution 8596 on December 21, 1993 for 2 lights within the area bounded by 3<sup>rd</sup> Alley SW between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Street SW.
8. SLD 1276 was created by Resolution 8689 on November 1, 1994 for 2 lights within the area bounded by 3<sup>rd</sup> Alley SW between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

9. SLD 1288 was created by Resolution 8936 on April 7, 1998 for 2 lights within the area bounded by 5<sup>th</sup> Alley SW between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

After researching the special lighting districts being considered in this consolidation and reviewing their boundaries, it was discovered that there were a few discrepancies.

Some lighting districts were included in prior consolidations, but the legal descriptions on their boundary lines were not listed in the original resolutions. Properties within those boundary lines have been assessed and some have not been assessed for alley lighting since the adoption of the resolution. Reference: Modifications #1 and #6.

Some properties were being assessed for alley lighting and should have been assessed, but the boundary lines as outlined in the legal descriptions from the prior consolidated resolutions, were not defined properly. Reference: Modifications #3, #5 and #8.

Research also revealed that some properties have never been included within any alley lighting district. Yet the properties have been benefiting from alley lighting for a number of years. Those properties should be included in this consolidation and they should be assessed. Reference: Modification #2, #4, #7 and #9.

With this consolidation, the newly modified boundary lines will include all of the above properties in question.