

A G E N D A R E P O R T

DATE July 19, 2005

ITEM Resolution 9506 Establishing a Street Light Policy

INITIATED BY City Staff

ACTION REQUESTED Approve Resolution

PRESENTED BY John Lawton, City Manager

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RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the City Commission approve the following motion:

MOTION: I move the City Commission approve Resolution No. 9506 which establishes a policy for new street light districts.

SYNOPSIS: Resolution No. 9506 will establish a City policy regarding creation of new street light districts. The policy declares that the City will own the infrastructure for new districts, that underground wiring is standard, that financing for new districts can continue to use state statutes and that the city will continue to use the assessment method outlined in state law for electric power supply and maintenance of street light districts.

BACKGROUND:

The City currently has eighteen street lighting districts which consist of 9,349 lights. Of the 9,349 lights, 92% are owned by NorthWestern Energy. Street lighting districts have been in existence in one form or another since 1912.

In the past the City has served only as a billing and collection agent for the electric utility, Montana Power Company and subsequent to its sale to NorthWestern Energy. The electric company has actually provided the system of poles and lights as well as the electricity to power them.

The City through its electric utility, Electric City Power, has been supplying electric power to all street lighting districts in Great Falls since October 1, 2004. The City now proposes to own and operate any new street lighting districts as is allowed by state law. The City has determined that it can offer the services that NWE has offered in the past at rates that will be in the long term best interests of its citizens. The policy proposed in Resolution No. 9506 would enable the City to own and operate new street lighting districts that would be requested by property owners or developers..

