



City of Missoula, Montana
Item to be Referred to City Council Committee

Committee: Administration and Finance

Item: Resolution levying street lighting district assessments for 2019

Date: August 2, 2019

Sponsor(s): Marty Rehbein

Prepared by: Marty Rehbein, Legislative Services Director

Ward(s) Affected:

☐ Ward 1	☐ Ward 4
☐ Ward 2	☐ Ward 5
☐ Ward 3	☐ Ward 6
☒ All Wards	☐ N/A

Action Required:

Conduct public hearing and consider a resolution

Timeline and Recommended Motions:

Referral to committee: August 5, 2019

Committee discussion: August 7, 2019

Council sets public hearing: August 12, 2019

Recommended motion: Set a public hearing on August 26, 2019 on a resolution of the Missoula City Council levying and assessing a special assessment and tax on the lots, pieces and parcels of land situated within all special lighting districts of the City of Missoula, Montana, in the amount of \$361,837.12 to defray the cost of street lighting in special lighting districts during the fiscal year 2020.

Public Hearing: August 26, 2019

Recommended motion: (Adopt/deny) a resolution of the Missoula City Council levying and assessing a special assessment and tax on the lots, pieces and parcels of land situated within all special lighting districts of the City of Missoula, Montana, in the amount of \$361,837.12 to defray the cost of street lighting in special lighting districts during the fiscal year 2020.

Deadline: September 9, 2019

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Each year, the City levies assessments to pay for the costs of street lighting in the street lighting improvement districts (SLIDs) located throughout the city. The City's Road District Number 1 fund pays for 10% of the costs of lighting and property owners are assessed the remaining 90%. The City charges 3% to cover the staff time to bill and process assessment payments. This year the city anticipates a 3.5% increase in rates from Northwestern Energy.

Last year, the City Council issued a formal request to Northwestern Energy to provide a financial analysis, inventory, asset assessment and ongoing management plan demonstrating the value and service received in connection with the rates charged for street lighting billed to the City of Missoula citywide. Over the past year, a great deal of progress has been made on this request. Public Works Director Jeremy Keene is arranging a presentation to Public Works Committee by a

Northwestern Energy representative to explain street lighting rates and Northwestern Energy's LED conversion program. Before proceeding with the LED conversion program, City officials want to have a clear understanding of how it would affect the City's lighting rates now and in the future.

Financial Implications:

Last year's assessments totaled \$359,504.44. Actual bills during the course of the year were less than anticipated. So even with the anticipated 3.5% increase in electrical rates, total assessments are projected to increase 1%.

Links to external websites: