

RESOLUTION 2012-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION

Requesting the City develop a street lights policy that considers light pollution as well as safety issues and strives to conserve energy

WHEREAS, the City of Dillingham Municipal Code 2.68.160 requires the Planning Commission to prepare and recommend to the city council a comprehensive plan, a subdivision ordinance, and a review of proposed community structures and facilities for consistency with the comprehensive plan and the capital improvement projects plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dillingham receives numerous requests annually for street lights and wishes to develop a policy regarding street light installation; and

WHEREAS, street lights are not mentioned in the City's current subdivision ordinance and guidance on installing street lights is lacking in the City's code in general, and

WHEREAS, several goals in the 2010 Update of the Dillingham Comprehensive Plan do address street lighting with regard to enhancing public safety and well-being; conserving energy and minimizing light pollution; and

WHEREAS, Goal 3G of the Community Wellness and Education chapter of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan Update, calls for improving the built environment to improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents, including connecting residential and business areas with attractive, safe, well-signed, pedestrian facilities, and [researching] approaches to integrate foot, cycle and motor traffic safely; and

WHEREAS, Goal 7 of the Land Use and Housing chapter of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan calls for "ensuring that existing and future land uses protect the natural environment to maintain," [among other resources such as clean air, clean water, streams, and wetlands] "dark night skies: minimize light pollution (for example, direct street lights downward; street lights should be energy efficient); and

WHEREAS, 2010 Comprehensive Plan Chapter 8, Energy, Objective 1B seeks to "Improve the energy efficiency of residential, commercial and public facilities;" and

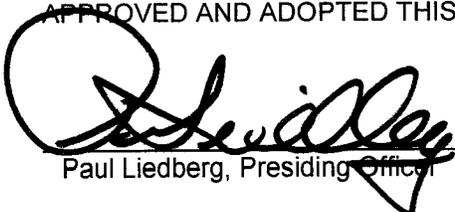
WHEREAS, regardless of the tariff that Nushagak Electric adopts for these lights, the city can still act to conserve energy and mitigate light pollution;

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting November 15, 2011, Planning Commissioners expressed the importance of adequate lighting for safety in critical places such as bus stops and intersections; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission also recognizes that placement of lights can be controversial and encourages the City Administration and Council to consider creating a mechanism for public comment when street lights are installed; and

THEREFORE, the Dillingham Planning Commission encourages the City of Dillingham to develop a street light policy that encourages energy conservation, enhances public safety, minimizes light pollution, and considers public input when lights are installed in city streets.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF January, 2012.

  
Paul Liedberg, Presiding Officer

  
Jody Seitz, Acting Commission Clerk