



Date: May 21, 2013

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager

From: Marvin Williams, Director of Public Works

Subject: Duke Energy Power Pole Replacement, Angier-Driver Streetscape

Executive Summary

On March 4, 2013 City Council approved the award of contract ST-258 to the Fred Smith Company for streetscape construction in the Angier-Driver targeted neighborhood commercial area. The Fred Smith contract involves street demolition and construction, replacement of electrical, water, sewer and storm water utilities, installation of streetscape and landscaping, and traffic signals and decorative street lighting for the Angier-Driver Business District in the City of Durham.

An integral part of that project has been the replacement of the existing power poles by Duke Energy. The new poles are taller to move the top-most overhead wires higher, more out of the line of sight. In addition, the new poles will be located behind the sidewalk whereas the existing poles are immediately behind the curb. Once the Duke Energy work is complete, the Fred Smith Company will install new electrical utility lines to the residences and businesses as part of their contract. Duke Energy has provided the City with a proposal which totals \$228,586.58 for the labor and materials required to replace the power poles and wires.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to approve payment of the invoice to Duke Energy in the amount of \$228,586.58.

Background

In March 2006, City Council approved a Neighborhood Assessment and Plan to assess the economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within Targeted Neighborhood Commercial Areas. The assessment established a development plan for the revitalization of these areas. The process included outreach to local businesses and residents with many opportunities to participate in the process through leadership interviews and visioning charrettes.

One of the standards identified in the plan was the need to have uniquely tailored streetscape designs for each of the Targeted Community Development Areas. Streetscape design and implementation was seen to be a means of promoting economic development in each of the Targeted Neighborhood Commercial corridors.

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Department of Public Works developed a process to create unique streetscape designs tailored to each area. The process included a conceptual design exercise to solicit community feedback from Durham businesses, community residents, and other primary stakeholders to allow them the opportunity to determine corridor improvements, aesthetics, safety and function.

The replacement of the existing power poles by Duke Energy is an integral part of the Angier-Driver streetscape project. Not only will the new poles be taller to move the top-most overhead wires higher more out of the line of sight, but also the new poles will be located behind the sidewalk where; the existing poles are immediately behind the curb.

Once the Duke Energy work is complete, the Fred Smith Company will install new electrical utility lines to the residences and businesses as part of their contract. In addition, Time Warner Cable and Frontier Communications will be moving their wires to the new poles, and will be placing their cables underground at the intersection, all at no cost to the City. The end result will be a much improved and cleaner view scape with fewer wires, and it will be much safer for vehicles with the power poles behind the sidewalk

Duke Energy has provided the City with a proposal which totals \$228,586.58 for the labor and materials required to replace the power poles and wires.

Issues/Analysis

The Public Works Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to approve payment of the invoice to Duke Energy in the amount of \$228,586.58. Duke Energy is the only provider of electrical power and therefore the City is obligated to utilize Duke Energy for this work.

Alternatives

The Council can choose to not authorize the Manager to approve the invoice in which case the power poles would not be replaced.

Financial Impact

Funds for this project are budgeted for in the following accounts:

OEWD	32027900-728600-70002	\$ 214,910.00
OEWD	32027901-728600-70002	<u>\$ 13,676.58</u>
		\$ 228,586.58

SDBE Requirements : Not applicable