



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: ADDISON CANINO, CAPITAL PROJECT SENIOR MANAGER
RE: RESOLUTION 24-24: FIRST LIGHT TECHNOLOGIES LTD., LIGHTING FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES FOR OVERHEAD LIGHTING RETROFIT PROJECT
DATE: APRIL 9, 2024

Summary and Background:

Staff have been working with Michael Baker International to identify grant opportunities for Town projects. During the summer of 2023, staff and the team from Michael Baker International identified the Main Street Live grant through the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) as a good fit for the Town of Frisco for two lighting projects:

- **Main Street Lighting.** These lights on Main Street are aging and the light fixtures are no longer in production. New fixtures can be retrofitted onto the existing poles with the assistance of a local electrician, and solar options are available.
- **Summit Boulevard Lighting.** During the design process for the Medians and Roundabouts project in 2023, there was a lighting component identified, and Town staff opted to utilize the iconic light poles on Main Street as the standard to follow. Using this standard and adding in a solar component would not only allow the Town to continue the look of its iconic Main Street but continues to follow its climate actions goals by looking at and extending its usage of sustainable infrastructure. Unfortunately, during the bidding process for the Medians and Roundabouts project, the lighting component was cut due to budget constraints.

The grant application to DOLA was submitted, accepted, presented, and awarded to the Town between August and October of 2023.

To complete this lighting work in 2024, lighting fixtures must be purchased. Resolution 24-24 is before Council on April 9, 2024, to authorize staff to purchase lighting fixtures from First Light Technologies, Ltd. Staff have previously worked with First Light Technologies Ltd., for the installation of solar lighting around Meadow Creek Park. These solar lights have been working well for the community and have certain features which allow them to be maintained and managed easily. As such, staff recommends working with First Light Technologies Ltd., on these two additional lighting projects in Town.

Analysis:

During the design process for the Medians and Roundabouts project, the First Light lighting fixtures were proposed by Town staff due to their successful usage in another area of Town, Meadow Creek Park. As a solar product that does not rely on hard wired infrastructure to operate, these lights provide a resiliency from power outages and will continue to provide safety to those using Main Street or the newly constructed area of Summit Boulevard from Main Street to Recreation Way. From an operations standpoint, much of the monitoring can be done from an app on a smartphone which will allow the user to gain metrics of how the lights are functioning, and that data can be sent to the manufacturer if there is a need to diagnose issues. Integrated into the light is a learning capability which ensures that there is optimal lighting performance at all times, so that will ensure peak efficiency is being achieved and operating in the most sustainable manner possible.

This implementation will result in 73 lights on Main Street being retrofitted to a solar lighting unit and new lighting bell housing like existing housing fixtures. The completion of the lighting component for the Medians and Roundabouts project will include 44 new fixtures on 22 new poles, aesthetically the same at the poles on Main Street. In total, 117 new solar fixtures will be installed and will reduce operational and maintenance costs, allowing more funding to be freed up for other capital or environmental projects in the future. With a project like this, it allows the Town to continue to move towards its climate resiliency goals and have a template to work from when replacing lighting fixtures in the future.

Financial Impact:

The 2024 Capital plan identified two projects; Solar Light Replacement on Summit Boulevard (\$500,000 budget) and Main Street Solar Light Retrofit (\$560,000) to be completed between the summer and fall of fiscal year 2024. Combined, the \$1,060,000 was too much for the Capital Fund to sustain at once, unless there was grant funding available. A grant application for DOLA's Main Street Live program was submitted and awarded to the Town. The grant program has a 75/25 split with the state awarding the Town \$795,000, and the Town's matching portion being \$265,000. The overall purchase agreement for the lights is \$849,225 with a down payment of 25% (\$212,306.25) to start production of the light heads/bells, with the remainder of the purchasing to come as the Town receives the assembled light packages. These matching funds are available and have been budgeted in the approved 2024 budget.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Quality Core Services
 - With this switch to solar power as opposed to wired infrastructure, this project better aligns with being an environmental steward, while maintaining and enhancing our current infrastructure. With a system that is not dependent on the power grid, the lights will continue to provide safety to those around them during a power outage. Being able to continue to use the current light poles on Main Street and retrofitting them with a solar component recapitalizes a current asset without the need to spend more Town funds.
- Thriving Economy
 - While the Town is increasing and planning to increase the workforce housing near the Town's two main economic hubs, Summit Boulevard and Main Street, these infrastructure upgrades will continue to support the Town and County's business community.

Environmental Sustainability:

In 2019, the Town passed Resolution 19-19, which aimed to have the Town utilize 100% renewable energy by 2035. It is projects like this that support this goal and continue to remove our dependence on non-renewable energy sources. Currently the Town is also enrolled in the Energy Action Plan with Xcel Energy to reduce its infrastructure emissions. Frisco is also part of the Summit County Climate Action Plan which plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through several different avenues, including renewable energy. The Town will continue to be an environmental steward when it comes to project planning and implementation.

Staff Recommendation:

It is the recommendation of Town staff that the Frisco Town Council approve Resolution 24-24 and instruct staff to move forward with the purchase of First Light Technologies Ltd, lighting fixtures. These lights are paramount to continuing with the projects that have been identified in the 2024 Capital Plan, and the vendor provides a product that the Town is currently using with much success. The recommendation for the usage of the First Light Technologies products came from a previous bid process for Meadow Creek Park, where no other product that was proposed was utilized in a similar cold weather climate. With First Light coming from Canada, specifically Victoria, BC, staff understood that the lights were able to withstand the weather conditions that would be ever changing throughout the year. During the Medians and Roundabouts project, First Light was one of the few lighting manufacturers that was willing to work with the design team's third-party lighting expert, to help design and develop a brand-new lighting fixture that did not exist in their current catalogue. This design team was the same one selected for the Slopeside hall project and First Light's products are being utilized there as well. When it comes to First Light's customer service, someone is always there to answer the phone for you when there is an issue. After the Meadow Creek Lighting project was closed out and completed, there were issues with several of the lights. After noticing this, staff called First Light, walked them through the problem, were relayed to tech support/manufacturing, walked through diagnostic procedures, then were up and running again with no more hiccups since then. There is something to be said about customer service that will work through an issue with their customers to ensure their product is working as intended to achieve the safety and security aspect of that particular project.

Reviews and Approvals:

Tom Fisher, Town Manager
Diane McBride, Asst. Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director
Chris McGinnis, Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – First Light Technologies Ltd. Purchase Resolution
Attachment 2 – Spec Sheet First Light BFL-B
Attachment 3 – Purchase Order
Attachment 4 – Light Pole Construction Drawing