

01-22-2020 Town Council Meeting

Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #8: Receive a Report Regarding LED Conversion Options for Outdoor Lighting

Council Question:

What is the difference between decorative and standard streetlights?

Staff Response:

Duke Energy reports that about 2,000 of the Town's streetlights are standard – a wooden or basic metal pole and light metal fixture. About 1,000 of the Town's streetlighting are decorative – typically a dark metal pole and fixture with more variation in the fixture style and shielding (see examples for each lighting type below).

While decorative streetlights are mostly found within neighborhoods, standard streetlights are located everywhere in town – major streets and collectors, as well as neighborhoods.

Standard Street Light Examples



Decorative Street Light Examples



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Council Question:

Given the reduced use of electricity by LEDs, why are there no operational savings (for the most part)?

Staff Response:

The rates and fees associated with Duke Energy's streetlights are set by the North Carolina Utilities Commission. So, even though there are energy savings the rates and fees don't generate cost savings to the Town. These rates vary based on the lighting type and whether it is decorative or not, so savings is somewhat dependent upon the lighting make-up of a community.