

MEMORANDUM

July 3, 2017

TO: City Commission

THRU: Greg Harrison, City Manager

FROM: Horacio Danovich, CIP Manager



Issue

Staff is seeking City Commission approval of an Ordinance to enter into a Master Solar Agreement with the Florida Power and Light (FPL). The agreement is necessary to partner with FPL to install Solar Trees and Canopies at various locations throughout the City to garner energy from the Sun and use the energy to provide clean electricity. There is no cost to the City.

Recommendation

Staff recommends Approval of the Ordinance.

Background

Back in November 2016, FPL Staff reached out to City Staff to make a presentation about Solar Trees and Canopies, and the benefits of installing equipment that can collect renewable energy from the Sun and use it for our electric needs. Since, we have maintained a healthy dialogue with our FPL counterparts seeking to initiate a worthy partnership in our mutual quests to reduce our dependency on non-renewable energy.

In June 2017, Staff visited FPL's Juno Beach facilities to meet with FPL representatives and see the Solar Trees and Canopies FPL would like to install in our City (see FPL Solar Now Presentation for details).

City Staff is recommending to partner with FPL on a green initiative that will reduce energy generation from non-renewable sources. FPL will use equipment to collect energy from the Sun, send it to the FPL grid, and ultimately share some of that captured energy for our own electric needs. As a function of entering into a Master Solar Agreement, FPL will install Solar Trees and Canopies. The agreement will allow FPL to install Solar Trees (single, Curb



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Horacio Danovich, CIP Manager

E: horacio.danovich@copbfl.com | P: 954.786.7834 | F: 954.786.7836

Design or double, Lift Design) as well as Canopies (carport-like facilities). The Trees and Canopies are equipped with solar panels capable of storing Sun's energy (about 1.5kW every six panels). Although the energy generated per individual tree/canopy isn't very significant, collectively all sites (in Pompano and throughout the State) will help reduce our dependency on non-renewable energy (i.e., coal, oil, etc.).

The City has identified various pilot sites to start this project:

- 1) City Hall's parking lot
- 2) SW 1st Avenue between Atlantic Boulevard and SW 2nd Street
- 3) The new Cultural Center/Public Library's parking lot
- 4) Fire Station 24 parking lot
- 5) NE 10th Street from Federal Highway to NE 5th Avenue

The above designated sites are all immediate candidates for installation of Solar Trees and Canopies. FPL will bear the costs of design, construction and maintenance of all Solar Trees and Canopies. The City will have the choice to ask FPL to add benches and tables under the trees. In addition, the City can ask FPL to add solar-powered electric outlets connected to the trees that can be used to power laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc. City Staff will also be involved in the selection of colors and site locations. For sites where Canopies will be installed, FPL will pre-wire the area for the future installation of electric car charging stations at no cost to the City (the City will bear the costs of adding electric car charging stations).

The City will continue to pay for electricity in the same manner as before. Our electric bills will have a separate line item identifying a partial source of electricity consumption (Solar), but the cost per kW-hour will remain the same.

One advantage to this partnership is the City will be able to demonstrate the use of solar-powered energy as a source and use it to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) points. Recently, the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) modified the point system classification for LEED certification. One of the main changes is recognizing the use of solar power generated energy and the assigned points for doing so. The City will be seeking to earn valuable points in its quest to obtain LEED certification for Fire Station 24. If successful, the same approach/credits may be used for future City-owned buildings. Moreover, Staff intends to investigate whether said points can be used retroactively for recently completed buildings (i.e., Beach Library and Public Library/Cultural Center, to name a few). If approved, the added points may result in LEED Gold as opposed to LEED Silver, etc.

Staff is making an effort to enter into a Master Solar Agreement with FPL before the end of FPL's current fiscal year. Pompano Beach will have a chance to be one of the first Cities to benefit from this partnership. To that effect, Staff recommends approval.