



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager    **DATE:** April 8, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Approve an interlocal agreement with Birdville ISD to provide for the operation and maintenance of street lights adjacent to Walker Creek Elementary School.  
**PRESENTER:** Caroline Waggoner, Director of Public Works

### **SUMMARY:**

The City Council is being asked to approve an Interlocal agreement with the Birdville Independent School District (BISD) to address the long-term operation and maintenance of ten street lights adjacent to Walker Creek Elementary School on Bridge Street and Parker Boulevard.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

When Walker Creek Elementary School was constructed in 2006, BISD included the required streetscaping improvements adjacent to the campus: street trees, wide sidewalks, and decorative street lights. The type of light specified was consistent with other lights used in the Hometown neighborhood, and was selected from Oncor's Decorative Street Lighting brochure. While the City of North Richland Hills does own and maintain some of our street lights, the vast majority of the city's street lights are owned and maintained by Oncor Electric Delivery. As part of the development process, it is the owner/developer's responsibility to coordinate the needed underground infrastructure with Oncor to ensure that the light bases and conduit are located and sized correctly to become part of their system.

In the case of Walker Creek Elementary School, city staff was unaware that the street lights installed along the perimeter roadways (Bridge and Parker) were tied directly into the school's power supply and were never coordinated with Oncor. Subsequently, there have been periods in which these lights were turned off along with the school's site lighting, leaving the street and sidewalk adjacent to the school dark at night, resulting in some complaints from area residents. When this came to light years after the school opened, both NRH and BISD personnel met with Oncor to determine options to absorb these ten lights into the larger Hometown lighting network. Unfortunately, Oncor was unwilling to agree to accept any part of the existing lighting, and stated that the city and BISD would essentially need to resolve the issue in order to have Oncor lights in the area.



Rather than spend tens of thousands of dollars to completely redo the existing lights, city and BISD staff have worked together on a solution to keep costs down for both parties. The proposed interlocal agreement will allow the existing lights to remain in place and connected to the school's power supply, but will provide for an electric sub-meter so that the city can pay for the power consumption. A photocell will also be provided to allow the lights to function on a dusk-to-dawn schedule consistent with other lights in the city.

The city will pay installation costs of up to \$2,500 for the sub-meters. In addition, the annual cost of the electric charges and fees is anticipated to be less than \$1,000; however, the agreement allows for up to \$2,500 annually to account for increased rates over time. The billing will be handled quarterly with the city paying for actual usage at BISD's negotiated rate with their provider, and the agreement provides either party the opportunity to make adjustments as needed in the future to accommodate any concerns for access, reimbursement, and other operational matters. BISD approved the interlocal agreement at its March 28, 2019 board meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the interlocal agreement with BISD for the operation and maintenance of street lights adjacent to Walker Creek Elementary School.