

MSD Electric Services

MSD currently has seven accounts with Beaches Energy Services for electricity services. Two of these are for street lights:

1. One account is for 229 100Watt HP Sodium street lights and 4 175Watt Mercury Vapor lights at a monthly cost of \$2,125.17.
2. The second account is for 23 100Watt HP Sodium street lights between 611 and 831 Ponte Vedra Blvd. at a monthly cost of \$208.42.

I am trying to get an inventory, by location, for all the lights, but so far have not been able to get Beaches Energy to locate one.

We have two accounts, one each, for the two flashing yellow lights on Ponte Vedra Blvd near the Inn and Club (around 164 and 299 Ponte Vedra Blvd.) each costing \$6.15 per month.

We have three metered accounts for two irrigation systems and a “pump:”

1. At 25 Waterbridge Place
2. At 603 N A1A
3. At 44 Waterbridge Pl.—currently paying \$6.15 per month

The monthly cost on the first two varies. However, the 44 Waterbridge account appears to be inactive since there is no electricity consumption. Beaches Energy seems to think it is for a fountain pump that is no longer in use. **Does someone have a history on this?** The 25 Waterbridge account is for an irrigation system. The A1A account, is for an irrigation controller and is much more costly than the 25 Waterbridge account and I am investigating why. I’ll provide additional information on these three accounts as I get it.

STREET LIGHTS

I met with the Beaches Energy Engineer, Mr. Jim Trimble, responsible for street lights. We drove down San Juan and PVB and also discussed a complaint from Mr. Jeff Colquit from the Grove who complained about a street light being removed at their south entrance and not being replaced.

1. He could not provide me with a list of street light locations that we pay for.
2. He did provide me with a copy of the contract that we would have to sign to add any new lights, and also a price list. I have both here for your review.
3. Cost for a new “colonial” 100Watt HP Sodium light is \$11.35 per month for the first three years, then \$6.10 per month. Plus taxes (does not apply to us) and a KW hours charge, currently \$2.35.
4. The current wooden pole lights on San Juan are projected to be replaced in about two years—maybe—he couldn’t be specific.

5. The current wooden pole lights on PVB south of Sawgrass are due to be replaced when the overhead cables are placed underground.
6. Some homeowners pay for their own street lights at their driveway entrances—these lights point away from the road.
7. Some homeowners do not like the lights by their homes and we saw at least two where the homeowner painted the glass on the light black on two or three sides.
8. Beaches Energy will install new lights at no additional installation cost if the location of the light is within 10 feet of a power source. This is the problem at The Grove where a pole with a light was removed when the overhead power lines were moved underground along A1A south of Mickler. There is no power source now within ten feet of the old pole location, consequently no new light was installed. We may encounter similar problems along PVB when the overhead power lines are placed underground sometime in the next year. I informed Mr. Colquit of the situation at The Grove.
9. Any of the lights on wooden poles now (along San Juan and PVB) will be replaced at no additional cost when the power lines are placed underground, provided a power source is within 10 feet of the existing pole/light location.
10. If we desire to place a light someplace other than within 10 feet of a power source, we can do so by paying an electrician to install power cable to the location from a nearby power source. If we want street lights along PVB by Sawgrass, this is a big problem as there is no power source along most of that stretch.
11. Street lights along A1A from Mickler south to the Guana are not plentiful. Again, the source of power is a problem. However, on this stretch there is the additional requirement for FDOT approval for the placement of lights.
12. Beaches Energy has no specified guidelines for distance between lights or placement on both sides of a street. For them, placement is driven by power source location. For any lights we want to add, we can select locations, and they will let us know if it is possible to place lights at those locations.

Summary: The board should develop a uniform policy on street lighting for the MSD and then work with Beaches Energy and FDOT, where necessary, to implement that policy. At a minimum, we need to determine:

1. Do we place a light at all intersections? Should be yes, for safety and to help drivers.
2. Do we place lights on both sides of the street?
3. Should homeowner preference on a light location by his property be considered?
4. Do we establish a somewhat uniform distribution (distance between lights) for lights?
5. Do we incur the cost of extending power to locations where a power source is not within 10 feet?
6. Do we wait for Beaches Energy to replace existing lights on wooden poles as part of rerouting overhead power cables underground or do we pay to have them replaced earlier? Waiting for Beaches Energy to do it would save us about \$5.00 per light per month for three years.
7. Other considerations??