

CHAPTER 15
POLES & WIRES

Section 15.1

No person or corporation shall be permitted to erect in any street or public highway in the City of Somersworth any telegraph, telephone, electric light or electric power poles and structures, except if they first obtain from the City Council a license to do so.

Section 15.2

Licenses for the purpose mentioned in the first section hereof shall only be granted upon the conditions that upon streets within the compact parts of the city none but straight poles shall be erected, and only at such points as shall be specified by the City Council, or by some person duly authorized by the City Council to fix such points; that such poles shall be kept neatly painted and in an erect position; that space shall be reserved at the top of all such poles for telephone, fire alarm and police signal wires used for municipal purposes; that such poles and structures shall be erected under the supervision of the Street Commissioner of the City or some person designated by the City Council.

Section 15.3

If any person or corporation to whom a license shall be granted under the provisions of this chapter shall fail to comply with the conditions of the license granted them, they shall be subject to a fine of not less than five nor more than twenty dollars for such violation, and to a penalty of twenty dollars for each and every thirty days any pole or structure shall be maintained in violation of said license, and also such license may be revoked by the City Council.

Section 15.4 Street Lighting Request Policy.

- A. Purpose of Policy. In the City of Somersworth surroundings can vary dramatically. This policy is intended to provide a uniform procedure to be used by the City Staff, Traffic Safety Committee and City Council for review and approval or denial of streetlight requests, based on Purpose of Streetlights and Considerations.
- B. Purpose of Streetlights. Streetlights are intended to: (1) light roadway features such as edge of pavement, intersections, sharp curves, dead-ends; (2) light obstructions such as median strips and bridge piers; and (3) provide pedestrian safety. Streetlights are provided primarily for street traffic safety. Streetlights do provide an indirect benefit to security, however, should not be installed solely for security purposes unless a traffic safety benefit can be justified.
- C. Considerations. The City Staff, Traffic Safety Committee and City Council will consider roadway safety, all associated costs, excess lighting onto nearby homes, energy

consumption and if the requested streetlight is illuminating a public road when making recommendations and decisions about new streetlight installations.

- D. Procedure. Residents, City Staff or City Councilors may make written requests for streetlights. All requests will be reviewed by the City Manager and forwarded to the Traffic Safety Committee for evaluation. The Traffic Safety Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for action. If the request is denied by the City Council, the City Manager will inform the resident making the request. If the request is approved, the City Manager will inform the resident making the request and place the order with the appropriate electric company.

(Section 15.4 passed 04/17/2006.)