



TO : Nick Mimms, City Manager

FROM : Johnna Morris, Director of Finance 

RE : **Paradise Park Streetlights MSTU – Annexed Properties**

DATE : May 11, 2018

This memo is written as a follow-up to the discussion at the February 20, 2018, City Commission meeting regarding the Paradise Park annexations and the Streetlights MSTU with the county. After many discussions and research with the county, we have concluded that the County created the Paradise Park Street Lighting District (SLD) in 1982 as an annual assessment based on an ad valorem millage. In 2010, the calculation was changed to a non-ad valorem assessment and a MSTU was created and has remained until this present time.

In 2006, annexations into the City began and currently there are 254 properties annexed, of which 232 properties were annexed prior to 2010. As a result, from 2006 to 2010 the property owners paid both City taxes and the County SID and from 2010-2017 City taxes and the County MSTU. Should the City decide to refund the property owners for the fees paid, the amount that could be refunded is \$88,159.51.

As a plan for refunding, it is suggested that we send letters to the property owners who were the owners at that time; the county has provided this information. The letter would inform them of our attempt to correct the error by offering a refund, which will need to be requested from the owner that paid the tax/fee at that time, by returning a notarized provided form. The owners will have 90 days to make claim for the refund, after which the City led refund period will cease.

This project will require a great amount of staff time and attention; currently there have been about 25 combined hours applied to this assignment. There are 254 annexed properties, but there are potentially 300 owners to be refunded. Though the county has provided a great deal of the information, the mailing of letters, verification and payment monitoring will have to be done. We will assign staff a certain number of hours per day to work on this project during the ninety-day period. Though tedious and time consuming, it can be done.

Should you need any further information please feel free to contact me.