



For Immediate Release

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Cohoes Common Council Approves “Historic Cleaner Greener Cohoes” Bond Initiative to Convert Street Lights to Energy Efficient LEDs

-Energy Savings to be Reinvested in City’s Historic Buildings and into a Comprehensive Renewal of City Parks and Playgrounds-

Cohoes, NY (April 27, 2021) – With tonight’s unanimous Common Council vote in favor of the Historic Cleaner Greener Cohoes Bond initiative, the City of Cohoes is one step closer to switching its 1,598 inefficient street lights to energy efficient Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs in “smart lighting” infrastructure, and then reinvesting some of the anticipated \$9 million savings over 20 years into additional energy-saving upgrades to the city’s historic municipal buildings, and into a comprehensive renewal of the its parks and playgrounds.

To finance the LED conversion project and energy savings reinvestment initiatives, Mayor Keeler sought tonight’s Council approval for the \$6.6 million Historic Cleaner Greener Cohoes Bond. “These projects to improve our green spaces, restore our historic municipal anchor buildings with a focus on energy efficiency and historic preservation, and move our community to a more clean energy future will have generational impact, and therefore should be financed by bonding,” Mayor Keeler said in announcing the initiative.

Projects to be funded by the Historic Cleaner Greener Cohoes Bond include:

- **\$2.5 million Green Energy Street Lighting program:** to convert the city’s 1,598 street lights to energy efficient Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs with “smart lighting” infrastructure. Over the 20-year life of the project the conversion to LEDs is expected to result in \$2.9 million in energy savings and \$6 million in reductions in service and supplier fees to National Grid, for the total projected cost savings of approximately \$9 million.
- **\$3 million Historic Anchor Building Restoration Fund initiative:** to reinvest a portion of the financial gains from the LED street lighting conversion project into additional energy savings upgrades to city-owned buildings, including City Hall, the Library, and the Music Hall/Visitors Center (National Bank Building).
- **\$750,000 Cohoes Park and Playgrounds Renewal project:** A three-year program to upgrade parks and playgrounds city-wide.
- **\$350,000 Smart Cities Technology plan:** A five year program to incorporate “smart” technologies into the city’s operations to improve services, safety, and accessibility.

“With interest rates at near-historic lows, this is the right time to invest in these long-term projects. And, combining all of these projects into one cohesive bond also will save the taxpayers money now and in the long run,” City Comptroller Mike Durocher said.

“This LED street light conversion project -- combining our Cleaner Greener Cohoes, Restore Historic Cohoes, and infrastructure initiatives -- strengthens our commitment as a Climate Smart and Clean Energy community focused on sustainability in all aspects of the word,” City Planner Joe Seman-Graves said.

Authorization to purchase the street lights also requires approval of the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC). If approved, the program could get underway this year.

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