



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of February 12, 2012
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of February 26, 2012

DATE: January 21, 2013
TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager
FROM: Michael Morris, Director
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Establishment of Tree Advisory Committee and provision for diseased trees

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending the City Code of Ordinances to establish the Tree Advisory Committee and include provision to address diseased trees.

PURPOSE:

In Spring 2012, the City Council directed the Parks and Recreation Department to work with the local 12,000 Trees for 2012 group to prepare an application for the Tree City USA designation. The proposed ordinance will help the city meet two of the standards as it establishes a Tree Board to be appointed by City Council and list minimum standards for tree planting and management on public property.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Tree City USA, sponsored by The Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities. In order gain the Tree City USA designation, a community must meet four established standards:

1. Have a tree board or urban forestry department
2. Approve a tree care ordinance
3. Observe Arbor Day via events and proclamation
4. Have a community forestry program with annual budget of at least \$2 per capita

The proposed ordinance will help the city meet two of the standards as it establishes a Tree Board to be appointed by City Council and list minimum standards for tree planting and management on public property. The Tree Board will be responsible for working with city staff to develop a detailed tree planting and management plan and reviewing the plan annually.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been observing Arbor Day on an annual basis for years through tree planting events, tree trimming workshops and coordinating a City Council proclamation to recognize the day. AEP's tree trimming program coupled with the Department's tree planting and care program meet the final standard for the Tree City USA standard.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not approve the ordinance and end the pursuit of the Tree City USA designation

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Not applicable.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

City Council must approve all changes to the City Code of Ordinance

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Non-Emergency

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Legal; The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the proposed ordinance on October 10, 2012. The Planning Commission approved the proposed ordinance on December 19, 2012.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Operating Revenue Capital Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget				
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item				
BALANCE				

Fund(s):

Comments: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of the ordinance

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance
Copy of Tree City USA application form