



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Council Session

Item F-1

#9583 - Consideration of Amending Chapter 24 of the Grand Island City Code Relative to Adding a Tree Board

Staff Contact: Todd McCoy, Parks & Recreation Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director
Meeting: April 26, 2016
Subject: Approval of a City Tree Board
Presenter(s): Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

Background

Many Nebraska communities have tree boards. A tree board is a group of people responsible, usually by ordinance, for overseeing management of the community trees, also known as the urban forest. It may be made up of municipal staff, local citizens and/or tree care professionals.

Tree boards assess the community urban forest situation using some type of inventory to determine short and long range program goals and objectives. They will develop and review annually a comprehensive community forestry plan. The board will advise the Mayor, City Council, and various departments on matters concerning trees and related resources. Recommendations may include policy changes and specific urban forestry projects. They educate residents on matters concerning the betterment of trees and related resources. The tree board may coordinate or conduct special projects for the betterment of the urban forest.

Discussion

The attached City Ordinance states that the Tree Board shall consist of seven (7) members. They shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of City Council. Tree Board members will be volunteers. The Tree Board will select their own officers and establish their own rules for proceedings.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date

4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that City Council approve City Code to establish a Tree Board.

Sample Motion

Move to approve City Code to establish a Tree Board.

ORDINANCE NO. 9583

An ordinance to amend Chapter 24 of the Grand Island City Code; to add Article V, Sections 24-18 through Section 23-22, pertaining to the creation of a Tree Board, its composition, its duties, responsibilities, and operation thereof; to repeal any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and the effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Chapter 24 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby amended to include Section 24-18 through Section 24-22 to read as follows:

**Article V.
TREE BOARD**

§24-18. Tree Board Established; Membership.

There is hereby created and established a Tree Board for the City, which shall consist of seven (7) members, citizens and residents of the City, who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council.

§24-19. Term of Office of Members of Tree Board

The terms of the seven (7) persons appointed to the City's Tree Board shall be three (3) years, except that the term of two (2) of the members appointed to the first Board shall be for only one (1) year and the terms of two (2) members of the first Board shall be for two (2) years. If a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, his or her successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.

§24-20. Compensation of Members of Tree Board.

Members of the Tree Board shall serve without compensation.

§24-21. Duties of Tree Board; City Tree Plan.

It shall be the responsibility of the Tree Board to study, investigate, counsel, and develop and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal and disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets or in other public areas. The plan will be presented annually to the City Council and, upon the Council's acceptance and approval, shall constitute the official comprehensive city tree plan. The Board, when requested by the City Council, shall consider, investigate, make findings, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.

Approved as to Form	▣ _____
April 22, 2016	▣ City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 9583 (Cont.)

§24-22. Organization and Meetings of Tree Board.

The Tree Board shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 2. Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

Enacted: April 26, 2016.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk