March 12, 2026

Commissioner Lonnie Wimberly

Request an Administrator Briefing

As we evaluate the potential creation of a Landscape or Grounds Maintenance Department, it is important that the Commission clearly understand the operational impact across our existing departments. Engineering currently manages many infrastructure-related assets tied to rights-of-way, drainage, and roadway projects, while Recreation oversees the maintenance and quality of our parks and recreational facilities.

Any proposal to create a new department should carefully evaluate how responsibilities and assets are allocated so we do not unintentionally weaken the performance of those departments. The goal should be to improve service delivery and coordination, not create operational fragmentation or duplicate functions.

For that reason, I would like the Administrator to provide a detailed needs assessment, a clear organizational plan, and a full cost model before we move forward. That briefing should also address how Engineering and Recreation operations will remain coordinated and protected under any new structure.

With that level of planning and transparency, the Commission can make a decision that strengthens our overall operations and ensures accountability

Request for Administrative Briefing

Proposed Landscape / Grounds Maintenance Department

I request that the Administrator provide a **detailed briefing to the Commission regarding the status and development of the proposed Landscape or Grounds Maintenance Department.**

The briefing should address the following areas:

1. Problem Definition

Clearly identify the operational issues the proposed department intends to address, including:

- Current service gaps in grounds and landscape maintenance
- Operational inefficiencies or fragmentation of responsibilities
- Impact on city appearance, infrastructure, and citizen complaints

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2. Needs Assessment

Provide a comprehensive assessment of the operational needs, including:

- Inventory of landscape and grounds maintenance assets
- Service areas and workload analysis
- Equipment and fleet requirements
- Staffing requirements and skill needs

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3. Comprehensive Department Startup Plan

Organizational Structure

- Proposed leadership structure
- Divisions or operational units

Staffing Plan

- Positions required
- Positions transferred from other departments
- New hires versus reassignment

Budget and Funding Model

Startup Costs

- Equipment
- Vehicles
- Facilities
- Technology and systems

Recurring Operating Costs

- Personnel
- Equipment maintenance
- Materials and supplies

Funding Sources

- General Fund
- SPLOST or other capital funds
- Grants or external funding sources

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4. Legal and Policy Considerations

Identify any legal or policy actions required, including:

- Charter implications
- Ordinance amendments
- Procurement requirements
- Interdepartmental agreements

Future Briefing – Implementation and Accountability

At a later stage, at my request, an additional briefing covering the implementation framework, including:

- Performance metrics and service standards
- Stakeholder engagement with departments affected by the change
- Pilot or transitional phase prior to full implementation
- Implementation timeline with accountability measures
- Post-implementation evaluation and reporting to the Commission