Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:	Submitted by:
December 9, 2025	Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator

Item Title: 09-2025 | AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR PROPER TREE MAINTENANCE	
First Reading |Ordinance 09-2025: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROPER CARE, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TREES WITHIN THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG.	
Work Session Item [ ] **Council Meeting Item [X]**	**Documentation Attached:** Ordinance 09-2025

Recommended Action:
Review and approval of an Ordinance on tree maintenance. This is the first reading of the ordinance.

Summary: The Town Administrator is proposing the adoption of this Ordinance to provide a framework for tree maintenance if the Town becomes a Tree City USA.

The Town of Bladensburg's tree maintenance ordinance focuses on the care, preservation, and maintenance of trees within public spaces, aiming to protect the town's natural environment and enhance community aesthetics. Key components typically include provisions for:

1. **Tree Planting and Removal**: Guidelines are established for planting new trees and managing the removal of dead, diseased, or hazardous trees to maintain public safety and tree health.
2. **Public and Private Tree Care**: The ordinance outlines maintenance responsibilities for public trees (e.g., those on streets and in town parks) and, in some cases, private trees that could impact public spaces or utilities.
3. **Permit Requirements**: Specific actions, such as the removal or significant trimming of large trees, may require a permit, ensuring town oversight.
4. **Enforcement and Penalties**: The ordinance may include penalties for unauthorized tree removal or neglect of tree maintenance responsibilities, helping to enforce compliance.

This ordinance reflects Bladensburg's commitment to a sustainable and green community by regulating tree maintenance and enhancing the urban forest.

This is the first reading of the ordinance, and it will come back to the Council in January.

Budgeted Item: Yes [ ] No [X] **Budgeted Amount:$ TBD** **One-Time Cost: Yes** **Ongoing Cost:**	**Continued Date:**
Council Priority: Yes [ ] No [ ]	**Approved Date:**