



AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

PREPARED BY: Gloria Abbotts, Sr Planner

DEPARTMENT: Planning &
Development

MEETING: Town Council October 10th, 2023

SUBJECT: **Text amendment** to amend Chapter 12, Sec. 12-7. Planting and protection of trees.

Applicant: Town of Carolina Beach

BACKGROUND:

In 2022 the Town Council directed staff to compile the necessary information to apply for Tree City USA accreditation. The Town of Carolina Beach's 2022 application for Tree City USA accreditation was rejected on the grounds that the current tree related ordinance did not specifically address protection of public trees to meet the requirements of Tree City USA.

The requirements to receive Tree City USA accreditation are to maintain a tree board, have a public tree ordinance, spend \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrate arbor day.

Tree City USA is a program hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation. The program started in 1976 to celebrate communities that were committed to growing and preserving their urban canopy.

The text amendment has been reviewed by both the Technical Review Committee and the Beautification Committee. Any comments or concerns have been reflected in the final draft of the ordinance.

Proposal:

The text amendment consists of delegating tree board authority to the beautification committee, establishing clear guidelines for public tree maintenance, and setting the penalty for harming public trees as a misdemeanor with a \$500 fine. Strengthening the town's tree related ordinance to specifically address public trees and officially delegating tree board authority to the beautification committee addresses the concerns from last year's application.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider recommending approval or denial of the text amendment.

Staff recommends approval of the text amendment as proposed.

MOTION:

Approval – to amend Chapter 12, Sec. 12-7. Planting and protection of trees.

Denial – to amend Chapter 12, Sec. 12-7. Planting and protection of trees.