



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Michelle Fischer, City Administrator

Council Meeting Date: June 4, 2024.

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider approval of the appointment of F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts as City Arborist.**

Agenda Item Requestor: Michelle Fischer, City Administrator

Summary/Background: Ordinance No. 2024-11 was approved by the City Council on March 5, 2024, adopting Article 28.06 Landscape and Tree Preservation, Division 3. Commercial and Subdivision Landscaping and Tree Preservation. The Ordinance requires the City Council to appoint a City Arborist.

Definition of City Arborist: The employee or consultant designated by the City Council as the City Arborist.

According to the Ordinance, the City Arborist will do the following:

Assess trees to determine if dead, diseased, or posing an imminent threat or hazard to people or property;

Consult with the Development Review Committee about mitigation for tree removal, allowing trees to be planted in the area between the sidewalk and road;

Verifies and certifies Parking Space Reduction Incentives;

Conducts potential Oak Wilt investigations; and

Assists those who wish to have a site certified under the Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Wildscape Program in lieu of meeting city requirements as long as 20% of existing trees on-site are preserved.

The City Arborist may be called upon as need to assist the City on other tree preservation and landscaping matters.

City Staff recommends the appointment of F.A. Barlett Tree Experts as City Arborist. The company was founded in 1907 and is one of the world's

leading scientific tree and shrub care companies. The company has an office in San Marcos that serves this area.

The City has used F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts for several projects, including: Tree Inventories and Assessments of City Owned trees in the Historic Districts; Assessment of trees on City Hall Property; DS Ranch Park Damaged Tree and Shrub Inventory and Assessment; Assessment of Trees in the Heritage Effluent Line Easement; and Assessment of Trees in Sports & Recreation Park.

City Attorney Laura Mueller and City Administrator Michelle Fischer reviewed the Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance with Michael Embesi, Arborist Representative. Michael will be the City's primary consultant. The City will also work with Joe Harris, Arborist Representative. Michael and Joe oversaw the previous projects for the City.

**Commission
Recommendations:**

N/A

**Recommended
Council Actions:**

Appoint F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts as City Arborist

Attachments:

Bios of Michael Embesi and Joe Harris with F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts; Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance.

Next Steps/Schedule:

Notify F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts of action.