



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Tree Mitigation Fund Workshop
DATE: October 19, 2023
DEPARTMENT: Public Works & Engineering Services
PRESENTED BY: Kelsey Delgado, Environmental Program Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

On September 21, 2023, City Council approved and adopted an ordinance amending the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances Appendix A “Fee Schedule,” Article A8.000 “Subdivision/Land Development Regulation Fees” which established a fee-in-lieu of mitigation for the removal of heritage and protected trees on development sites. The purpose of this workshop is to present potential options on what the funds received from the fee-in-lieu could be used for. Options include, but are not limited to, financial assistance for oak wilt mitigation (removal or treatment), tree and landscape planting and maintenance, brush removal, Arbor Day events such as tree giveaways, acquiring conservation easements, drainage and erosion control improvements, other capital improvement projects, or other purposes as desired by Council.

There is no law or regulation requiring such collections be used for tree preservation purposes; however, most cities with a fee-in-lieu of mitigation choose to do so. A review of how other cities use such fees will be covered as part of the workshop presentation.

Although no action is requested as part of this workshop, staff is seeking guidance on how the Council would like the fees collected to be used. Based on guidance, staff may bring back a draft policy or ordinance for future consideration.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

- The development of a fee in-lieu fund policy will provide means to protect and preserve existing trees, remediate oak wilt, reforest, and/or beautify the city.
- Funds may be used for city events or projects to improve the quality of life and support the Hill Country aesthetic of Fair Oaks Ranch.
- Meets Strategic Action Plan 2.5.6 – Develop and implement tree preservation and oak wilt assessment programs.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Funds received from development/redevelopment projects may be restricted for specific purposes, as determined by City Council. Such funds would be subject to appropriation during the normal budget process or by budget amendment.

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

No action required as staff is seeking guidance on how the collected fees should be used.