

Amending Leon Valley Code of Ordinances Chapter 13 Tree Preservation

City Council Meeting

Public Works Director Melinda Moritz

January 17, 2023



Purpose

- To consider amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13 Tree Preservation, Article 13.02 Tree Preservation Ordinance, to remove superfluous definitions, assign various duties directly to the Park Commission and City Council, change references to departments, and other housekeeping issues
- Options
 - Approve
 - Approve with other amendments
 - Deny
- Recommendation
 - Approve amendments to Chapter 13

Background

- This item is to consider amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 23 Tree Preservation:
 - To assign variance request hearing and decision-making duties directly to the City Council
 - To assign public education duties to the Park Commission
 - To revised staff and department references
 - To remove definitions that are not referenced in any part of this Chapter (not needed)

Background

- At the December 6, 2022 City Council meeting, Council approved an Ordinance dissolving the Tree Advisory Board & reassigning those duties to the Park Commission
- Council also wants to remove the duty of hearing tree variance requests and assign this directly to the City Council

Background

- To support this change, the Tree Preservation Code also needs to be amended, as it directly refers to the Tree Advisory Board as being responsible for these items and not the Park Commission
- This amendment would also place the duties for hearing variance requests solely on the City Council
- While reviewing the code, Staff noted several other miscellaneous revisions that if made, would make the code faster & easier to read/interpret for both staff & public

Background

- Revisions include:
 - Removing definitions that are not referenced in any part of the chapter
 - Moving the definition of oak wilt disease from the Oak Wilt Prevention section to the Definitions section
 - Changing the name of the responsible city department from Community Development to the Planning and Zoning Department
 - Removing references to small sized trees in certain sections, as those had been previously removed from preservation requirements
 - Removing application review from the City Manager, as this action can be undertaken by the City Manager at any time & doesn't need to be stated in this code

Fiscal Impact

- Will cut down staff time & preparations, from two meetings to one

Recommendation

- At City Council discretion

S.E.E. Statement

- *Social Equity* – Reducing the number of boards, commissions, and committees reduces the possibility of not having enough volunteers and assures all citizens that city business continues smoothly and efficiently
- *Economic Development* – The efficient management of city business assures the development community that their requests for variances will be heard and decided timely, which may result in more economic development
- *Environmental Stewardship* – Having a committee that supports the El Verde by 2025 tree planting challenge will assure the city's goal is met on time and continues to improve the environment