

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

City of Rollingwood City Council

Meeting Date: March 19, 2025

Submitted By:

Staff

Agenda Item:

Discussion and possible action on an amendment to the Code of Ordinances Section 107-369 to Section 107-379 regarding Residential Landscape Tree Canopy Management

Description:

At the January 8, 2025, Planning and Zoning meeting, after the public hearing on an amendment to the Code of Ordinances Section 107-369 to Section 107-379 regarding Residential Landscape Tree Canopy Management and made a motion to recommend approval with the following changes in mind:

1. **Change in Terminology:** The definition of "building footprint" should be replaced with "buildable area" for clarity throughout the document.
2. **Review of Heritage Tree Removal Policy:** Section 107-373(a)(2) prohibits the removal of a heritage tree unless a special exception is granted. This section should be reviewed and modified to address concerns about the removal of heritage trees and the special exception process.
3. **Tree Deaths Beyond Homeowners' Control:** Section 107-375(f) is under review because of concerns that homeowners may be unfairly penalized for trees dying due to factors outside their control. The City Council is asked to consider changes to this section.
4. **Impact of Tree Removal:** The City Council is asked to clarify what constitutes a significant impact to both the canopy and root zones of a tree, potentially leading to its removal. Commissioners recalled that at one point, the threshold for removal was set at 50%, and they would like to see this reinstated in the code.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 in favor to 1 (Nash)

At the February 19, 2025, City Council meeting, a public hearing was held on an amendment to the Code of Ordinances Section 107-369 to Section 107-379 regarding Residential Landscape Tree Canopy Management.

Jay Van Bavel of 5012 Timberline Drive and a member of the CRCRC expressed concern regarding the proposed amendments, specifically highlighting the absence of crucial protections for critical root zones. Mr. Van Bavel presented and reviewed suggested language amendments related to critical root zones with the City Council.

City Council members asked questions about the language and the importance of critical root zones.

The information Mr. Van Bavel provided was consistent with recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission, which had advised reinstating this language into the code from earlier versions.

Action Requested:

To consider the recommendation to approve amendment to the Code of Ordinances Section 107-369 to Section 107-379 regarding Residential Landscape Tree Canopy Management with the Planning and Zoning revisions

Fiscal Impacts:

No significant fiscal impacts are anticipated at this time.

Attachments:

- Draft amendment to the Code of Ordinances Section 107-369 to Section 107-379 regarding Residential Landscape Tree Canopy Management (as revised by P&Z and the addition of Mr. Van Bavel's additional language)