

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

## City of Rollingwood City Council

**Meeting Date: April 16, 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:**

**Planning and Zoning Commission action:** 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 as follows:

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 on 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)**

**Action before the City Council:** 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.

At its March Council meeting, the Council considered the proposed draft ordinance, which incorporated the comments as proposed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and comments from the February 19, 2025, public hearing, together with other suggested comments from the Council, and requested the proposed ordinance be updated to include the Council's comments and be brought back to the Council for consideration at its April 16, 2025 meeting.

**Action Requested:**

To consider the recommendation to approve amendments 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 City Council at the 3/19/2025 meeting)