

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

City Council

Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

Submitted By:

Staff on behalf of Councilmember Kevin Schell

Agenda Item:

Discussion and possible action on the development of an oak wilt prevention, mitigation, and remediation program

Description:

At the **May 20, 2026 City Council meeting**, Councilmember Kevin Schell introduced a proposed program intended to establish a long-term, proactive City response focused on public awareness, prevention, early detection, treatment incentives, and a water-use incentive program that could be modeled after the City's leak adjustment process and potentially supplemented through future budget requests.

Council generally expressed support for continued discussion and further development of the proposal.

Council Member Kevin Schell moved to request feedback from the Utility Commission on the impacts of providing additional water usage above normal, at the city's cost plus an administrative fee, to support property owners impacted by oak wilt. Council Member Phil McDuffee seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against.

At the **June 2, 2026 Utility Commission Meeting**, the Commission was presented with the proposed incentive program. This program could be administered similarly to the City's leak adjustment program, with potential future budget support for treatment costs. Commissioners discussed eligibility requirements and the possibility of a funding cap.

Walt Roloson moved to support property owners impacted by oak wilt through the provision of additional water, passed through to the customer at the city's cost, plus an administrative fee, but with a capped cost. Chris Kirksey seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against.

Councilmember Kevin Schell has prepared an Oak Wilt Prevention Program document that outlines key program details and reflects direction from the last Council meeting and the Utility Commission's support. This document will serve as the basis for drafting the formal ordinance. Council is asked to review and approve the program details so that staff may proceed with ordinance drafting and bring it back for adoption at next month's meeting.

Action Requested:

Discuss the proposed Oak Wilt Prevention Program document and direct staff to work with legal counsel to draft an ordinance based on the details provided to be brought back to Council for formal adoption at the next regular meeting.

Fiscal Impacts:

No fiscal impacts at this time, but funds would need to be allocated in future budgets if the program is created.

Attachments:

- Oak Wilt Prevention Program 6.2026