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**To:** Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

**From:** Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

**Date:** April 8, 2024

**Subject:** No Mow May Discussion

As we approach the upcoming spring season, we wanted to revisit the discussion surrounding the "No Mow May" initiative and seek guidance from the City Council regarding its implementation for the year 2024.

## Background:

Last year, the city sponsored the "No Mow May" initiative, encouraging residents to refrain from mowing their lawns during the month of May in support of biodiversity and conservation efforts. The initiative received mixed feedback from the community, prompting us to reevaluate its pros and cons before deciding whether to continue with it this year.

## Pros:

- **Biodiversity Preservation:** Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow freely during May can promote biodiversity by providing habitat and food sources for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.
- **Water Conservation:** Reduced mowing can lead to water conservation as longer grass retains moisture better, thereby reducing the need for irrigation.
- **Cost Savings:** By reducing the frequency of mowing operations, residents can potentially save on fuel, labor, and equipment maintenance costs.
- **Community Engagement:** The initiative encourages community participation in environmental conservation efforts, fostering a sense of stewardship and pride among residents.

## Cons:

- **Aesthetic Concerns:** Longer grass may be perceived as unkempt or unsightly by some residents, potentially leading to complaints about neighborhood appearances.
- **Weed Growth:** Allowing grass to grow unchecked may result in weed proliferation, which could pose challenges for property maintenance and management.
- **Allergens:** Longer grass can harbor allergens such as pollen, potentially exacerbating allergies for sensitive individuals within the community.

Request for Direction:

Given the aforementioned considerations, we are seeking guidance from the City Council on whether to proceed with the "No Mow May" initiative for the year 2024. If the City Council wishes to proceed, you would adopt the resolution included in the City Council packet.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.