

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) OF THE CITY CODE OF EL PASO BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 2.77, TO ESTABLISH THE CITY OF EL PASO TREE BOARD; PROVIDE FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP; DUTIES; TERMS OF OFFICE; FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC, REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL OF TREES IN THE CITY OF EL PASO.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council find that it is in the best interest of the citizens of El Paso for a City Tree Board to be established to gather information for public dissemination on the importance of trees in our community, and to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council for the development of ongoing programs for the preservation, protection, maintenance and removal of trees in the City of El Paso; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council recognize the benefits of trees to our community because trees increase property values, stimulate economic development, improve business, provide savings, improve the environment and improve community health; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a City Tree Board to develop public education programs, an Adopt-a-Median program, a Memorial Tree program, an Arbor Day celebration, a preferred tree list, a tree care ordinance, establish standards to meet Tree City USA designation requirements, and an annual community forestry work plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

I. That Title 2 of the El Paso Municipal Code (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) shall be and hereby is amended by adding Chapter 2.77 (City of El Paso Tree Board) to read as follows:

“Chapter 2.77 City of El Paso Tree Board.

2.77.10 Committee Established—Membership. The City of El Paso Tree Board is hereby established. The City Tree Board shall be composed of nine citizens of the city. Each City Council member shall appoint one representative, and the mayor shall appoint one representative. The City Tree Board shall be selected as follows:

- A. One member shall be a Certified Arborist; and
- B. One member shall be a member of the West Texas Urban Forest Council; and
- C. One member shall have a horticulture background; and
- D. One member shall be a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; and
- E. One member shall be a member of the Texas Forest Service; and
- F. One member shall be a licensed, registered Landscape Architect.

The remaining three members, in so far as possible, shall represent diverse regions or interests of the community. The City Streets Department, the City Parks and Recreation Department and the El Paso Water Utilities shall provide administrative support to the City Tree Board.

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Terms and Election of Chair and Vice-Chair. The members of the City Tree Board will serve staggered terms. The City Tree Board members' initial terms will be established by lot at the first meeting. The initial board will be composed of five members, including the Chair, who will serve for two years, and four members who will serve for one year. Each successive term thereafter shall be for a two year period. Initial terms will all run from the date of the first meeting of the City Tree Board. City Tree Board members shall serve until a qualified successor is appointed unless otherwise provided for in the El Paso Municipal Code. City Tree Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. The members of the City Tree Board shall select a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting, and again annually thereafter. The City Tree Board member chosen as Chair at the first meeting shall have an initial term of two years.

2.77.30

The duties of the City Tree Board shall include the following:

- A. Establish or support programs, with City Council approval, to educate the community about the advantages and values of trees and to provide information regarding the proper selection, planting, removal and maintenance of trees within the City; and
- B. Develop, with City Council approval, an Adopt a Median program, providing opportunities for private and public entities to work in partnership to enhance City medians; and
- C. Establish, with City Council approval, a Memorial Tree Program, that would create a program for the planting of Memorial Trees in neighborhood parks and on public property throughout the City; and
- D. Coordinate, with City Council approval, an annual City-wide Arbor Day observance to recognize and to promote the importance of trees in the community; and

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- E. Create, for City Council approval, a list of recommended tree species to be planted on public property and within public rights-of-way. The list would be used to guide City departments in selecting native and adapted trees that are best suited for use on public property to minimize maintenance costs and to improve longevity; and
- F. Draft and propose to City Council a Tree Care ordinance, with the goal to protect, to preserve and to enhance trees on public property, by establishing guidelines for the planting, maintenance and removal of trees; and
- G. Prepare, with City Council approval, a plan to achieve national recognition for the City of El Paso by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the United States Forest Service as a Tree City USA; and
- H. Prepare a Community Forestry Work Plan, in conjunction with City staff, for the purpose of reporting periodically, but not less than once a year, for Mayor and City Council approval, on recommendations for the care, preservation, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in City parks and medians. The Mayor may request The City Tree Board to make reports to the general public on a one-time or regular basis. The City Tree Board will perform such other duties as may be requested from time to time by the Mayor; and
- I. Facilitate a NeighborWoods Program, with City Council approval, with the goal of increasing neighborhood reforestation by individuals, neighborhood associations and businesses, on private property, increasing canopy cover throughout the City.

2.77.40 Members shall hold no other public office nor receive compensation for their service.

- A. No member of the City Tree Board shall hold any other public office of honor, trust or profit in the government of the city, county or state during his or her term of office.

B. Members of the City Tree Board shall serve without pay.

277.50 Quorum—Final Action.

A quorum shall consist of five (5) members of the City Tree Board. The Chair shall have a vote in all matters. No final action shall be taken on any matter except pursuant to a simple majority vote of the members present.

2.77.60 Meeting Rules and Procedures Generally.

- A. Any motion by a member at a duly called meeting shall require a second. After a motion has been made and seconded, discussion of the motion may be had for a reasonable period of time at the direction of the Chair. Discussion shall terminate at

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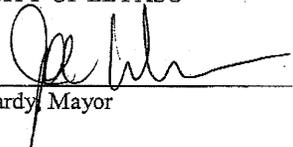
the direction of the Chair or upon a call for a vote on the question by a member of the committee.

- B. Whenever any question of procedure may be raised at a committee meeting, the Chair shall rule thereon. A member may move to overrule the Chair's decision, which may be done only by a majority vote of the members present.
- C. Voting on matters may be by voice vote, provided that a roll-call vote shall be taken upon the request of any committee member present.
- D. Any question of order or procedure not covered herein shall be decided by reference to Robert's Rules of Order insofar as same may be applicable.

II. Except as amended herein, Title 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) of the El Paso Municipal Code shall remain in full force and effect.

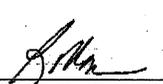
DULY PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS. ON THIS THE 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2003.

THE CITY OF EL PASO



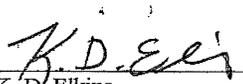
Joe Wardy, Mayor

ATTEST:



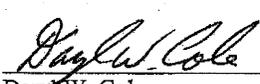
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM;



K. D. Elkins
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Daryl W. Cole
Streets Director