



Commission Agenda Report

Meeting Date:	January 28, 2016	Primary Staff Contact:	Zac Moody
Department:	Community Development	E-Mail:	zmoody@cityoftalent.org
Staff Recommendation:	None	Estimated Time:	30 minutes

ISSUE BEFORE THE COMMISSION

The Commission is being asked to participate in a work session designed to aid Staff in the amendment process of the City's Tree and Landscaping code.

BACKGROUND

Staff is proposing changes to the Tree and Landscaping section of the Talent Zoning code to address concerns about the removal of large trees on private property and to provide clearer landscape standards for new commercial, industrial and residential property. Staff is also seeking an opportunity for the City to receive a Tree City USA Growth Award.

As you all know, the City of Talent is a Tree City USA and has been for 15 years. What you may not know is to receive Tree City USA status, there are four core standards of sound urban forestry management that must be maintained. The City is required to maintain a tree board or department, have a community tree ordinance and spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and the celebration of Arbor Day.

For 15 years the City has maintain its Tree City USA status and received on Tree City USA growth award. A City can earn a Growth Award if it qualifies as a Tree City USA for at least two consecutive years and completes activities in eligible categories earning 10 or more points.

It has been 5 years since the City last applied for a Growth Award and Staff is confident that the City can receive the award again in 2016 with some changes to our Tree and Landscaping code. While many of the items necessary to receive points in the "Improved Ordinance" category have already been addressed, there is room for improvement.

In order to make the necessary changes to the Tree and Landscaping code, Staff began reviewing all sections of the Talent Zoning Code that related to trees or landscaping. This included reviewing the Tree and Landscaping section as well as the Off-Street Parking Standards specific to landscaping. After reviewing each section, it became clear to Staff that not only was additional language needed to address deficiencies, but a reorganization of the sections of code was also necessary to make the code more usable to our citizens.

With that said, Staff is recommending that the following changes the Talent Zoning Code:

- Remove Fences and Hedges section and consolidate with new Landscaping section
- Add Landscaping, Fencing and Hedges as a new section



- Add Tree Preservation and Protection section
- Add Public Trees section

Attached to this report is a very preliminary draft of the proposed amendments for review. It is Staff's goal to review these proposed changes with the Planning Commission and take suggestions on text that should be added or removed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None

RELATED CITY POLICIES

None

COMMISSION OPTIONS

Direct Staff to continue to refine amendments and present proposed amendments during an additional work session at the February 25, 2016 Planning Commission meeting, table amendments for determined period or table amendments with no action.

POTENTIAL MOTIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Title Page

Draft Tree Preservation and Protection language

Draft Landscaping, Fencing and Hedges language

Draft Pubic Trees language