

CITY OF SMYRNA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council

From: Rusty Martin, AICP, Community Development Director
Joey Staubes, AICP, Planner II

Date: August 9, 2023

CC: Planning and Zoning Board
Joe Bennett – City Administrator

RE: Tree Ordinance Revision – Tree Bank Funds

Background

The City of Smyrna is coordinating a program with Trees Atlanta to allow tree bank funds to be used for the planting of street trees on private property. Currently, the Tree Ordinance restricts tree bank funds to be used solely for maintenance, education and the purchase and planting of trees on public sites.

Community Development is proposing an amendment to the tree ordinance to allow street tree planting on private property where specific conditions are met. The proposed amendments are as follows:

Sec. 106.29 Definitions

Tree bank means an account, maintained by the Finance Department of the City of Smyrna, of funds contributed from developers as a form of alternative compliance to the Smyrna Tree Ordinance. Funds from the tree bank are to be used solely for maintenance, education and the purchase and planting of trees on public sites within the city as authorized by the Community Development Director or for the planting of street trees on private property through a city sponsored program approved by the City Council. Street trees planted on private property must be planted within 20 feet of the public right-of-way.

Sec. 106.32 Alternative compliance to tree density requirements

(d) *Smyrna Tree Bank*. As another method of alternative compliance, the City will accept donations to the Smyrna Tree Bank. These donations will be used for the sole purpose of maintenance, education, and planting trees on public property within the City (See section 106-50). Tree Bank funds may also be used for the planting of street trees on private property through a city sponsored program approved by the City Council. Street trees on private property must be planted within 20 feet of the public right-of-way.

Recommendation

The proposed Tree Ordinance amendments will further promote a healthy viable community forest that will be shared by the citizens of Smyrna. Therefore, staff recommends **approval** of the attached revisions the City's Tree Ordinance.