



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Councilors
From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Date: March 16, 2015
Re: Presentation – Arbor Day Foundation Tree City Awards

BACKGROUND:

City Staff was notified on February 20, 2015 that the City of Elizabeth City was re-certified as a Tree City USA community for another year! There are four core standards that must be met in order for a community to become a Tree City USA. Each Tree City USA must maintain an Urban Forestry Commission, a Community Tree Ordinance, a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita, and hold an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.

The City became very proactive in 2008 to make sure our community protects, enhances, and manages our urban forest through our ordinances, programs and increased emphasis on planting and tree care. There are only 3,400 Tree City USA communities throughout the United States and Elizabeth City has been very fortunate to be a part of this elite Arbor Day Foundation program for several years.

ANALYSIS:

The City's Urban Forestry Commission has received two awards for the City from the Arbor Day Foundation and wishes to present them to the City Council. The first award recognizes the City of Elizabeth City as being a Tree City USA for five years. The second award is the Growth Award. This award recognizes environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care in our community, as evidenced by additions or significant improvements in our tree program during the past year.