

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, APPROVING AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A CITY-WIDE TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, Section PL7.4 of the City of Olympia Comprehensive Plan describes a goal to “Increase the area of urban green space and tree canopy within each neighborhood proportionate to increased population in that neighborhood.” Community Values and Vision for the Natural Environment include “a dense tree canopy that will beautify our downtown and neighborhoods, and improve the health, environmental quality, and economy of our city,” and

WHEREAS, A comprehensive assessment provides baseline tree canopy conditions to help us understand the current distribution of trees across the city. This geospatial data can be analyzed relative to other important public health, economic, and environmental considerations and may be utilized across City departments, and

WHEREAS, A tree canopy assessment will enable City staff to set and monitor specific targets to make sure both the benefits and challenges of urban trees are distributed equitably across neighborhoods and communities, and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Department of Natural Resources Urban And Community Forestry Program is authorized by the Evergreen Communities Act (RCW 35.105) to provide up to \$40,000 in grant funding in April 2022 “to assist municipalities and jurisdictions across the state to better manage existing urban forests and plan for improvements to urban forests to increase the value of the ecological, social, and economic services that urban trees provide”; City staff seek authorization to apply for such grant funding, and

WHEREAS, Environmental Services (Public Works) and the City Urban Forester (CP&D) intend to utilize grant funds, if awarded, for a professional services contract for data acquisition and analysis, and comprehensive reporting on urban tree canopy conditions to inform future citywide program, policy, and project development, and

WHEREAS, if the grant funding is awarded to the City, the City will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and will be required to furnish matching funds in the form of staff hours, volunteer hours, materials, or cash; and

WHEREAS, if the grant funding is awarded to the City, the City anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Thurston County Planning Department documenting the County’s commitment to providing the geospatial data necessary to complete the project (2021 Lidar imagery) and up to \$15,000 toward the grant-required match funds, in the form of staff hours, volunteer hours, or cash; in exchange for access to data generated by the county-wide land cover analysis, and

WHEREAS, per Olympia Municipal Code Section 3.16.020.C, it is necessary for the City Council to authorize City staff to apply for the grant funds and to authorize the execution of all documents necessary to complete the grant agreement and obligate funds for the Project, including the expenditure of matching funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The Olympia City Council hereby authorizes City staff to apply for the Urban and Community Forestry Grant for a City-wide tree canopy assessment.
2. If the City of Olympia is awarded the grant, the expenditure of matching funds, in the form of staff hours, volunteer hours, materials, or cash, is approved.
3. If the City of Olympia is awarded the grant, the City Manager or his designee is directed and authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Olympia any grant agreement necessary to receive grant funds, provided the City Manager or designee deems the terms of such grant agreement reasonable.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2022.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael M. Young

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY