

City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201



Agenda Item Number: B 209-15

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: 7/20/2015

Re: Accepting Donated Funds from the Downtown Community Improvement District for Construction of an Improved Tree Planter/Stormwater Treatment Cell

Documents Included With This Agenda Item

Council memo, Resolution/Ordinance

Supporting documentation includes: Diagrams

Executive Summary

The Downtown Community Improvement District (CID) has donated \$20,000 to the City of Columbia for the purpose of constructing an improved tree planter/stormwater treatment cell in the downtown area, within the City rights of way.

Discussion

City Stormwater Utility staff developed plans to use a concept known as “suspended pavement” to grow larger trees in the downtown area and provide stormwater treatment. Suspended pavement is a general term for technology that supports the weight of pavement and creates a rooting area composed of lightly compacted, high-quality soils for tree roots in cities and other heavily paved environments. Suspended pavements are ideal low-impact development design solutions for the long term co-existence of trees and streets, parking lots and sidewalks. Stormwater runoff can be directed to the tree and topsoil, turning the planter into a stormwater best management practice (BMP). Schematics of a typical system are attached.

The suspended pavement tree planter concept provides space for more vigorous tree root growth which leads to larger, healthier trees that contribute to cleaner water, cleaner air, cooler temperatures, and a more inviting space for downtown business patrons. Healthier trees also require less maintenance (less watering) and fewer replacements due to longer tree life.

After a staff presentation to the CID concerning this concept, the CID showed their support by donating \$20,000 to the City to initiate implementation of improved tree planters in the downtown area. Staff expects to spend an additional \$10,000, which is being transferred from the Annual Street Landscaping project account. Over time, as more is learned about how to construct these planters, the cost per planter is expected to decrease.

The ideal location for the tree planter will have easy access to the storm drain system, high visibility for a significant number of downtown visitors, and an adjacent property owner who is supportive of having a large tree in front of their property. Staff is working closely with the CID to identify the ideal

City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201



location. Stormwater Utility staff has also been consulting with the City Arborist and Parks and Recreation staff members about this concept and its implementation. Construction is anticipated in FY2016.

This improved planter is expected to be the first of many installed in the downtown area. The long term goal is to install improved tree planters wherever feasible and aesthetic in the downtown area, and within other City rights of way. Funding for additional improved tree planters is planned to be included in the stormwater utility budget beginning in FY 2018.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The tree planter project is estimated to cost \$30,000. The CID donated \$20,000 and those funds are being appropriated to the Downtown Tree Planter 2015 project. Additionally, \$10,000 is being transferred from the Annual Street Landscaping budget to the Downtown Tree Planter 2015 project.

Long-Term Impact: The costs of maintenance is expected to be less than a normal tree planter, therefore, staff expects no long term cost.

Vision, Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Vision Impact: Community Character, Community Facilities and Services, Community Pride and Human Relations, Development, Downtown, Environment, Parks, Recreation and Greenways

Strategic Plan Impact: Health, Safety and Wellbeing, Infrastructure

Comprehensive Plan Impact: Land Use & Growth Management, Environmental Management, Infrastructure, Livable & Sustainable Communities

Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to accept a donation from the Downtown Community Improvement District, appropriate funds, and transfer funds from the Annual Street Landscaping budget, for the construction of an improved tree planter/stormwater treatment cell within the City rights-of-way.

Legislative History

None


Department Approved


City Manager Approved

Introduced by _____

First Reading _____

Second Reading _____

Ordinance No. _____

Council Bill No. B 209-15

AN ORDINANCE

accepting a donation from the Downtown Community Improvement District for construction of a suspended pavement tree planter and stormwater treatment cell in the downtown area; appropriating funds; transferring funds; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City accepts a \$20,000.00 donation from the Downtown Community Improvement District for construction of a suspended pavement tree planter and stormwater treatment cell in the downtown area.

SECTION 2. The sum of \$20,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Annual Downtown Tree Planter Project Revenue Account No. 558-0000-480.10-00 C49115 to the Downtown Tree Planter 2015 Project Account No. 558-6688-881.49-90 C49127.

SECTION 3. At the request of the City Manager, the City Council hereby transfers \$10,000.00 from the Annual Street Landscaping Project Account No. 440-8800-528.49-90 C40163 to the Downtown Tree Planter 2015 Project Account No. 558-6688-881.49-90 C49127.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2015.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor

CERTIFICATION: I certify there are sufficient funds available in the Annual Downtown Tree Planter Project Revenue Account No. 558-0000-480.10-00 C49115 to cover the above appropriation.

Director of Finance



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS INCLUDED WITH THIS AGENDA ITEM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Diagrams



