



## Department of Public Works

**To:** Milton Personnel & Finance Committee  
**From:** Howard Robinson, Director of Public Works  
**Date:** October 4, 2016  
**Subject:** Discussion and Possible Action to Allow Payments on Hazardous Tree Removal Enforcement Actions.

---

### Summary

Current city ordinance requires the owner of hazardous trees to remove those trees at the homeowner's expense. The homeowner is sent a letter indicated the subject tree on their property has been deemed as a hazard to public safety. Upon receiving the letter the homeowner has a designated number of days to have the tree removed. If the homeowner fails to remove the tree in a timely fashion, the city can remove the tree and charge the entire cost of the tree removal to the property owner.

Due to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, an inordinate number of "hazardous tree letters" have sent to homeowners in the last few years. That number is anticipated to increase again next year in 2017. Some homeowners have asked if the City can remove the trees, but allow them to make payments on a yearly basis. They understand the need and responsibility to remove the trees but would like to not have the expense on one invoice. Our current payment plan is a full payment invoice or full payment on the current tax invoice.

### Recommendation

Public Works is requesting permission to work with Finance Director Nelson and Administrator Hulick to set up a payment plan for people who have the city or city contractor cut their trees. The payments would be similar to other assessment payment plan situations. The City has money in its assessment fund to cover initial tree removal cost. Therefore, the City would not have to budget separate funds for this program. Property owners would still have the opportunity to remove their trees privately.