

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Park/Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining City of La Crosse owned facilities and street boulevards in an efficient manner, with public safety being a top priority, and

WHEREAS, these facilities and boulevards have numerous trees currently growing within their boundaries, and

WHEREAS the City of La Crosse Common Council authorized and approved the Park/Recreation Department and the Park Board in Resolution file # 2012-12-055 to implement the Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan for The City of La Crosse at Pettibone Park, Pettibone Boat Club, Pettibone Campground, Forest Hills Golf Course, and Copeland Park and where such action plan was economically successful on behalf of City of La Crosse taxpayers, to include the sale of marketable timber, and

WHEREAS, the Park/Recreation Department has since been pro-active in the implementation of the Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan within the City of La Crosse boundaries which includes provisions for facilities and boulevard tree replacement, and

WHEREAS, the Street/Recycling Department is responsible for maintaining the City of La Crosse brush site(s) in an efficient and pro-active sustainable manner, and

WHEREAS, part of maintaining said brush site(s) includes the chipping of brush and trees which is an operating budget cost incurring operation, and

WHEREAS, in August 2013 the Board of Public Works approved the negotiation of the sale of tree/brush chips for use at the Xcel Energy waste-to-power facility on behalf of the Street/Recycling Department which was acted upon in August 2013 and February 2014 with success, and

WHEREAS, the Park/Recreation and Street/Recycling Departments have acknowledged that with the eminent onset of EAB infestation in the City of La Crosse, and continued pro-active implementation of the Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan, and maintaining the City of La Crosse brush site(s), will take a toll on each departments operating budget to maintain the current level of service to City of La Crosse taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of La Crosse Common Council that it hereby approves the Park/Recreation Department and the Street/Recycling Department establish a committed resolving fund for the deposit of monies from the sale of wood chips and timber from operations as listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Park/Recreation Department and the Street/Recycling Departments use such deposited operating budget funds for expenses to include:

- Procurement and/or planting of boulevard trees,
- Procurement and/or planting of trees on property of City owned facilities,
- Offset staff costs to plant such trees procured,
- Maintaining City of La Crosse brush site(s),
- Improvements to City of La Crosse brush site(s),
- Offset costs of staffing City of La Crosse brush sites,
- Use funds for matching grant applications for operations as listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Park/Recreation Department, the Street/Recycling Department, and Finance Department collaborate together, and are authorized to expend, negotiate, contract with, and/or establish a public/private business venture with vendor(s) to ensure the best economic, efficient, and pro-active sustainable benefits of chip and timber sales on behalf of City of La Crosse taxpayers and be within the guidelines of the City of La Crosse Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan and any established, or future, brush site(s) operational procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Public Works, the Superintendent of Parks, the Superintendent of Street, the Director of Finance, and the Director of Public Works are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.