

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining trees on City owned property and street boulevards in an efficient manner, with public safety being a top priority, and

WHEREAS, these properties/boulevards have numerous ash trees currently growing within their boundaries, and

WHEREAS, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has made its way into the La Crosse area and will infest said ash trees resulting in potential public safety issues, and

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Department and the Park Board have publically stated it is in the best interest of City residents and the general public's safety to be pro-active in controlling the EAB infestation of ash trees within said properties and boulevards, and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse Common Council adopted in Resolution file # 2012-12-055 an Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan for the City Of La Crosse to be pro-active in controlling the EAB infestation as recommended by the Park and Recreation Department and the Park Board, and

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Department and the Park Board are responsible for the oversight of the actions and activities related to the Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan for The City Of La Crosse in a pro-active manner, and

WHEREAS the City of La Crosse Common Council authorized and approved the Park and 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 with single source negotiation that was timely and economically successful on behalf of City of La Crosse taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Department and the Park Board believe it is advantageous, economical, and responsible to negotiate a single source, multiple year contract for the completion of the approved Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan for the City Of La Crosse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of La Crosse Common Council that it hereby authorizes the Park and Recreation Department and the Park Board to commence single source negotiations considering public safety, efficiency, and economical and ecological factors of the Plan for the removal of ash trees growing on City owned properties and street boulevards through a multi-year contract using the Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan for the City of La Crosse as a guide to include, but not limited to:

- Implementation timelines.
- Identifying locations of ash trees.
- Tree removal, tree treatment, or a combination of both.
- Selling marketable timber.
- Determining funding sources.
- Sources of funding (e.g. applying for grants).
- Determining tree replacement, to include type and location.
- Communicating and collaborating with other departments and organizations (e.g. Corp of Engineers, DNR, other City departments) as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Park and Recreation Department and the Park Board report back to the City of La Crosse Common Council with the results and recommendations of said negotiations, and

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