



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL (Legislative - LOC 50.07.003.16.e)

Hearing Date, Time, and Location:

Tuesday, March 17, 2015; 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
380 A Avenue
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

File Number: PP 14-0005 (Ordinance 2664)

Applicant: City of Lake Oswego

Nature of Ordinance:

A request from the City of Lake Oswego for an amendment to Lake Oswego Code, Section 55.02 – Tree Removal. A City Council goal from 2014 is to “Amend the tree code to more appropriately address large land parcels, both private and public, for forest management.”

Description of the Proposed Code Amendment:

The proposed amendment (Ordinance 2664) provides a permit process for tree removal and forest management activities on large tracts of land (at least one acre of forested land) consistent with the following objectives:

1. Maintain forest cover, consistent with the current Tree Code purpose^[1], while minimizing the risk of catastrophic events such as wildfire, drought, infestations, storms/tree blow-down, and landslides.
2. Create a separate permitting process for forested properties of one acre or larger, leaving intact the existing Tree Code for residential lots and new development.
3. Provide for removal of a small number of trees with a simple, over-the-counter permit process that is scalable (e.g., based on forested acres) and uses objective criteria.
4. Allow for the removal of a greater number of trees (e.g., thinning) subject to approval of a forest management plan prepared by a qualified professional. Consider existing models for establishing tree stocking levels, such as the Oregon Forest Practices Act.
5. Encourage and assist owners of large forested tracts in managing their property, while providing safeguards for neighborhood character, protection of water quality, and erosion control.
6. Provide for public comment prior to approval of major forest management activities.

A copy of the recommended text amendments can be found on the City’s website:

<http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/projects>

(Under “Search” enter PP 14-0005, then press “Submit”)

The proposed amendment would be implemented through the adoption of Ordinance 2664, which will be considered at the public hearing. The title of the ordinance is as follows:

^[1] The purpose of the Tree Code is “... to regulate the removal of trees and prescribe preventative protection measures to avoid damage to trees during site development in order to preserve the wooded character of the City of Lake Oswego and to protect trees as a natural resource of the City.” (LOC 55.02.010)

Ordinance No. 2664

An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake Oswego amending LOC 55.02 to address forest management on large tracts of land, both private and public (PP 14-0005).

Copies of the Ordinance will be available from the City Recorder one week before the hearing.

Staff Contacts:

Inquiries regarding the proposal may be directed to Scot Siegel, Director of Planning and Building Services, at (503) 699-7474 or ssiegel@ci.oswego.or.us. For information about the public hearing, contact Catherine Schneider, City Recorder, (503) 675-3984.

How to Comment:

Bring or mail written comments to:

Catherine Schneider, City Recorder
Third Floor, City Hall
380 A Avenue
Post Office Box 369
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Phone: (503) 675-3984
Fax: (503) 697-6594
e-mail: cschneider@ci.oswego.or.us

You may attend the hearing and comment under the section for public testimony. For more about the hearing procedures, contact staff.

Decision:

The City Council may make a preliminary or final decision to adopt the Ordinance following the hearing. The ordinance would become effective thirty days after final adoption.

Time Limits on Testimony:

The purpose of time limits on testimony is to provide all interested persons with an adequate opportunity to present and respond to testimony while at the same time ensuring that the hearing can be conducted in an efficient and expeditious manner. The following time limits on testimony shall be observed, but may be changed by the Council:

Testimony will be taken in the following order: in support of the amendment, in opposition to the amendment, neutral.

- 10 minutes for a representative of a recognized neighborhood association, homeowner association, government agency, or other incorporated public interest organization;
- 5 minutes for other persons.