

Sec. 16.3.17. – Jefferson Heritage Tree Council

- (a) *Creation and establishment of city tree council.* There is hereby created and established a city tree council to be known as the Jefferson Heritage Tree Council. The tree council shall consist of eleven voting members who shall be appointed by the mayor and city council, eight of which must be citizens and residents of the city.
- (b) *Term of office.* The term of office of the 11 persons appointed by the mayor to the tree council shall be three years except that the term of four of the members shall be two years and the term of three of the members of the first council shall be only one year. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, his successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.
- (c) *Compensation.* Members of the board shall serve without compensation.
- (d) *Duties and responsibilities.* It shall be the responsibility of the tree council to study, investigate, council, develop or update annually, and administer a written plan for the sustainable management of the community forest, including the care, conservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along city streets, and in other public areas. It shall also be the responsibility of the tree council to include in the plan ongoing education to the community about trees and their management. Such plan will be presented annually to the mayor and city council by the tree council and upon their acceptance and approval it shall constitute the official community forest management plan of the city. The tree council, when requested by the mayor and city council, shall consider, investigate, make findings, report and recommend upon any special matter of question coming within the scope of its work.
- (e) *Operation.* The tree council shall choose its own officers, establish its own bylaws and rule and regulations, and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. The tree council shall meet at least quarterly. The tree council shall have a budget for its operation as approved by the mayor and city council, and shall be authorized to accept grants and private donations on behalf of the city to fund its activities.
- (f) *Interference with city tree council.* It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the city tree council, or any of its agents, while engaging in and about the planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying, or removing of any street or park tree as authorized in this article.
- (g) *Review by mayor and city council.* The mayor and city council shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the city tree council. Any person may appeal from any ruling or order of the city tree council to the mayor and city council who may hear the matter and make a final decision.