



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Bill Robeson, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Temporary Closure of South Mason Street from East Branch Street to Nelson Street on Friday October 14, 2022

DATE: October 11, 2022

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

South Mason Street from East Branch Street to Nelson Street will be temporarily closed from 7:00am to 5:00pm on October 14, 2022.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

Staff time will be necessary to assist in monitoring traffic and pedestrian safety and detours. The cost for a tree service company to remove the tree and provide traffic control is a total of \$5,600.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the temporary closure of South Mason Street from East Branch Street to Nelson Street from 7:00am to 5:00pm on October 14, 2022, to allow for the removal of a hazardous tree at City Hall.

BACKGROUND:

In late 2019, due to signs of declining health, the City Arborist began monitoring the conditions of an approximately 40-foot tall multi-trunk tree located at the southwest corner of the City Hall property. Observations began to confirm an increasing amount of dead smaller branches, while more recent inspections have confirmed that at least half of the tree is dying. Because of the intertwining of trunks, the structural integrity of the tree is critically compromised by the dying off of one the main trunks. Additionally, this tree is 3 feet from the southwest exterior wall of City Hall and 1 foot from the eave overhang.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

The City Arborist consulted with three other private contractor/certified arborists and each agreed that the tree must be removed because of the tree's declining condition, loss of structural integrity, and the threat this tree presents to pedestrians, City Hall staff, and the City Hall building.

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City of Arroyo Grande Municipal Code section, 12.16.040 - Responsibility for tree-damaged sidewalks and public improvements, states in section A., “The public works director will periodically prepare a list of particular street trees that have created a present and immediate danger to pedestrian travel, by causing damage to public improvements, sidewalks, or have interfered with drainage flow in gutters, or resulted in traffic hazards in adjacent streets.” Although the tree in question is not currently causing damage to any public improvements, there is a confirmed present and immediate danger to the public and public facilities due to the increasingly declining condition of the tree. With this information, the Public Works Director has identified this tree for removal and the closure of the South Mason Street will facilitate this in a safe and efficient manner.

Other points of information:

- ✓ Staff has contacted Paulding Middle School and they will include this information in their newsletter.
- ✓ 2 electronic message boards will be located at appropriate locations (E. Branch and Nelson St. areas), approximately one week prior to the upcoming closure.

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- ✓ A traffic and pedestrian control plan will be submitted by the tree contractor and approved by staff through the encroachment permit process.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Approve staff's recommendation;
2. Do not approve staff's recommendation;
3. Modify as appropriate and approve staff's recommendation; or
4. Provide other direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

Approval of the temporary closure will allow the tree removal work to be done in one day and substantially reduce the risk of personal injury and property damage.

DISADVANTAGES:

Inconvenience to local residents and roadway users for the day.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Guideline Section 15305(b) Issuance of minor encroachments permits such as street closings and equipment for special events.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Photos