



**City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

Committee: Budget and Finance

Item: Hazardous Vegetation Assessments for Fiscal Year 2022

Date: July 29, 2022

Sponsor(s): Marty Rehbein, Legislative Services Director/City Clerk

Prepared by: same

Ward(s) Affected:

Ward 1 Ward 4

Ward 2 Ward 5

Ward 3 Ward 6

All Wards N/A

Action Required:
Adopt resolution

Recommended Motion(s):
I move the City Council: A resolution levying a special assessment and tax upon property for annual weed assessments to reimburse the city for hazardous vegetation and nuisance weed cut orders performed in 2021 totalling \$797.50 pursuant to section 7-22-4101 Montana Code Annotated and section 8.40.040 Missoula Municipal Code.

Timeline:

Committee discussion: August 10, 2022

Council action (or sets hearing): August 15, 2022

Public Hearing (if required): n/a

Final Consideration n/a

Deadline: n/a

Background and Alternatives Explored:
Each year, the City receives many hazardous vegetation and nuisance weed complaints. Community Planning, Development, & Innovation (CPDI) inspects the property in question, and if they find the vegetation violates city ordinance, they send notice to the property owner to cut the vegetation. If the vegetation isn't cut in the time outlined in the notice, the City's contractor cuts the weeds and CPDI sends the property owner an invoice. If the property owner hasn't paid the invoice, state law and the city ordinance allow the city council to collect the debt through a property tax levy.

During the past year, two properties didn't pay the invoices for vegetation removal by the city's contractor totaling \$797.50. The vegetation was cut in 2021.

The city has a similar program for sidewalk snow shoveling. There are no assessments for that program because 100% of violations were remedied by the property owners.

Below are metrics prepared by CPDI staff for the past year's programs. Note the assessments for FY 23 hazardous vegetation represent 1% of total violations. 99% of property owners who had a violation resolved it themselves.

Sidewalk Snow Shoveling

Complaints Received	146
Invalid Complaints	23
Confirmed Violations	123
Violations Resolved by Property Owners	123
Violations assessed for levy	0
Percent of Invoices Paid by Property Owners	100%

Hazardous Vegetation

Complaints Received	178
Invalid Complaints	17
Confirmed Violations	161
Violations Resolved by Property Owners	159
Violations assessed for levy	2
Percent of Invoices Paid by Property Owners	99%

Financial Implications:

Because the contractor has been paid for the cut orders. So if Council doesn't levy the assessments on the property owner, the financial responsibility rests with all taxpayers in Missoula.

Links to external websites: