City of Missoula, Montana
New Business Item

Item: **Hazardous Vegetation Assessments from FY23**

Council Meeting
Date: August 16, 2023

Sponsor(s):   **Marty Rehbein, City Clerk**

Prepared by: Claire Trimble, Senior Deputy City Clerk

Ward(s) Affected:

☐ Ward 1   ☐ Ward 4
☐ Ward 2   ☐ Ward 5
☐ Ward 3   ☐ Ward 6
                  ☒ N/A

Action Required:
Adopt resolution

Recommended Motion(s):
I move the City Council:

Adopt 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 FY2023 totalling $2,704.25 pursuant to section 7-22-4101 Montana Code Annotated and section 8.40.040 Missoula Municipal Code.

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, seven properties didn't pay the invoices for vegetation removal by the city's contractor totaling $2,704.25.   The vegetation was cut in 2022-23.

Below are metrics prepared by CPDI staff for the past year's programs.

Complaints Received	**100**
Invalid Complaints	**7**
Confirmed Violations	**93**
Violations Resolved by Property Owners	**81**
Violations Invoiced	**12**
Violations assessed for levy (invoices unpaid)	**7**
Percent of Invoices Paid by Property Owners	**58%**

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:
Click or tap here to enter text.