

Resolution Designating the 'Natchez' Crape Myrtle as Main Street Street Tree

Whereas, since Flowering Pear trees were utilized as the primary street trees on Main Street, there have been maintenance issues and community complaints. At the time they were selected, they were a popular new tree variety, but they have not performed as expected. The trees often have poor, spindly form, and there have been significant issues with Mistletoe infestation; and

Whereas, the issues with the existing Flowering Pear trees, and the concept of designating a new tree was highlighted in recent reports to the Planning Commission, City Council and Tree Board. Staff also noted this issue to the Downtown Association and Chamber of Commerce. Generally, there was concurrence that the Flowering Pears were problematic, and that a new tree variety would be appropriate; and

Whereas, the 'Natchez' variety of Crape Myrtle was identified as an appropriate selection for incremental replacement of the Flowering Pear trees. This tree has already been successfully used as the street tree for most of South Main Street; it is successfully used as a street tree in other jurisdictions; it is a smaller tree which appears suitable for the relatively tight spaces typical to Main Street; it has very attractive Champagne-colored blossoms; and appears to have less susceptibility to Mistletoe; and

Whereas, the new tree selection would generally be utilized when trees are hit by vehicles; when utility work requires tree removal and replacement; when trees die, are stunted, or are severely diseased; or when staff and budget resources are available to replace smaller groupings of trees.

Now, therefore, the City Council hereby designates the 'Natchez' Crape Myrtle as the official Main Street street tree.

IN COUNCIL DULY ADOPTED this 3rd day of October, 2017.

Ayes: Councilmembers Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Slayter and Mayor **Glass**
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

APPROVED: _____


Mayor Una Glass

ATTEST: _____


Mary Gourley, MMC, Assistant City Manager / City Clerk

Approved as to Form: _____


Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney