



Legislation Text

File #: ID#16-92, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION:

Receive a Staff presentation and discuss the projects and activities for the Clean Community Fee, and provide direction to staff.

Meeting date: February 16, 2016

Department: Finance, Heather Hurlbert-Finance Director

Funds Required: N/A

Account Number: N/A

Funds Available: N/A

Account Name: N/A

CITY COUNCIL GOAL:

#2-Beautify and Enhance the Quality of Life for San Marcos

#7-Sound Finances

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENT(s): N/A

BACKGROUND:

During Fiscal Year 2016 budget discussions, City Council directed that a monthly fee be charged to residents and businesses to enhance the beautification and cleanliness of the City. Staff proposed a \$1.00 fee for residents and a \$5.00 for businesses. Public hearing was held and the fee was adopted in December 2015. The fee will be charged to each residential and business property with an active City operated utility service. For multi-family complexes with utility accounts that service more than one residence, the residential rate will be multiplied by the number of residential units. If a business utility account serves more than one business, the commercial rate will be multiplied by the number of tenants. Schools, universities, and federal, state, county and local government owned properties are exempt from the fee. Citizens and businesses will begin seeing the fee on their utility bills beginning March 1, 2016. The anticipated annual revenue is \$500,000 with \$375,000 anticipated collections for FY 2015-16. City Council gave direction to staff to bring back a plan for the use of the funds for FY 2015-16.

Staff recommends allocation of the funds generated by the fee between recurring activities and one-time projects and purchases. These activities and purchases are allocated to benefit neighborhoods, downtown, river areas and parks, major highway corridors, and the City as a whole. Staff will work with City Council and citizens to identify needs for both the recurring and one-time programs. The proposed use of funds will be presented to the City Council during the budget process each year.

The recommended recurring activities include:

- Increased mowing and trash pick-up in highway corridors, city streets and right of way, and parks
- Matching funds program to fund specifically identified needs such as dumpster enclosures

- Public education

The recommended one-time programs for FY2015-16 include:

- Landscaping the median along Craddock
- Purchase of a sidewalk sweeper for the downtown area
- Purchase of equipment and supplies for a neighborhood beautification trailer
- Purchase of trash and recycling containers for parks