

ORDINANCE #500 REQUIRING REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND BONDING OF TREE TRIMMERS AND REMOVERS WITHIN THE CITY OF FOREST

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen recognize the importance of preserving and maintaining the urban forest and landscape for environmental, aesthetic, and public safety purposes;

WHEREAS, unregulated tree trimming and removal can result in environmental degradation, safety hazards, and unnecessary costs to the City due to improper practices;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to ensure that individuals and businesses engaged in tree trimming and removal are qualified, accountable, and operate in accordance with established standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, as follows:

SECTION 1. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

All individuals or entities engaged in the business of tree trimming or tree removal within the City limits shall register annually with the Department of Community Development. Registration shall include the registrant's name, address, contact information, and proof of qualifications or certifications, if applicable.

SECTION 2. LICENSING AND BONDING

No individual or entity engaged in the business of tree trimming or removal shall conduct such activities within the City without first obtaining a license from the City.

- a. Applicants shall submit a completed application, proof of liability insurance, and a surety bond in an amount determined by the City to ensure compliance with City regulations and to protect against property damage or public harm.
- b. Licenses shall be valid for the remainder of the fiscal year in which they are issued and must be renewed at the beginning of each subsequent fiscal year.

SECTION 3. PERMIT FOR TREE WORK

A permit is required prior to the commencement of any tree trimming or removal activities within the City.

- a. The permit fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per site or address.
- b. Permits must be prominently displayed at the work site and are non-transferable.

c. Emergency removals due to storm damage or safety hazards must be reported to the City within 48 hours.

SECTION 4. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

All registered and licensed tree contractors shall:

- a. Be responsible for the complete removal and lawful disposal of all tree debris from the site.
- b. Adhere to all applicable City ordinances, safety standards, and environmental guidelines.
- c. Be subject to inspection and enforcement by City staff.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

Failure to comply with any provision of this ordinance may result in suspension or revocation of licensure, fines as set by resolution of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, or legal action as permitted by law.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

That this ordinance will go into effect 30 days upon passage, the public interest requiring, but that it be published in *The Scott County Times* as required by law.