

MEDIA RELEASE
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For Immediate
Release
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Cleburne taking tree ordinance meetings to the streets

Second public input meeting taking place at the intersection of Buffalo and Marengo Streets

CLEBURNE, TX. - The city of Cleburne will hold its second citizens meeting to discuss a possible new tree-pruning ordinance on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 5:30 p.m. on the corner of Buffalo and Marengo Streets.

The goal of the neighborhood style meeting is to get residents to talk in an informal setting, and encourage involvement from people who may not normally attend meetings at Cleburne City Hall or the Cleburne Conference Center, said Public Works Director and Assistant City Manager David Esquivel. The city plans to hold other neighborhood meetings in the upcoming weeks.

"We need to hear what the citizens have to say," Esquivel said. "Also, we want to let them know why we feel it is important for us to address this issue now."

Esquivel said a meeting in January with homeowners at the Cleburne Conference Center was very productive, and hopes more people will get involved through these neighborhood events.

The proposed ordinance would require the city to pay for a program that will trim low hanging limbs to a height of 14 feet. That is the height required for city vehicles, including fire trucks and garbage trucks, to go down streets without the concern that low limbs will damage vehicle or injure workers.

Members of the city council have expressed concerns residents and business owners might face a financial hardship if they were mandated pay for the first trimming and be responsible for hauling off cut limbs. The desire to reduce that hardship is why the city is proposing to pay for the initial cutting.

After the first trimming, home and business owners will be responsible for keeping the trees they own in compliance with the proposed ordinance. The city hopes to find ways to reduce costs on the elderly and underprivileged so they can stay in compliance with the law.

Residents and business owners who have questions about the public hearing can contact the Cleburne Public Works Department at 817-645-0942.