

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

98-277

SYNOPSIS –

**AGENDA:
JULY 1, 1998**

**SUBJECT:
TREE DEBRIS
REMOVAL,
CONTRACTED
ASSISTANCE**

**TYPE:
RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

**SUBMITTED BY:
JOHN BELLIZZI
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR**

On June 29, 1998, the City of Des Moines experienced intense 70 mph peak winds which resulted in catastrophic tree damage and resulting power outages. The tree debris damage was heaviest in the northeast one-third of the city and was very apparent on both public rights-of-way and private property. Since the end of the storm, the No. 1 priority of the City has been restoration of power outages. However, that problem, which is being addressed by Mid-American Energy, is complicated by tree debris removal.

The amount of city-wide damage has been estimated to be between 35,000 - 40,000 tons of tree debris, or approximately 8,000 tandem truckloads of debris. During the storm, the primary objective of the City was the safety and protection of residents. Immediately following the storm, City crews worked to open roadways for vehicular traffic. On the following morning, City crews commenced with tree debris removal. In addition to solid waste crews removing the smaller debris, field crews began removing the larger pieces of tree debris placed on parkings.

Prior to this windstorm, City crews were assigned to street, sewer, and drainageway restoration of damage caused by the recent flood and rain event. However, systematic collection of tree debris will begin on July 1, 1998, at which time City crews will be augmented with contractor assistance estimated in the amount of \$400,000. It is estimated that the tree debris cleanup will consume 6 - 8 weeks. The duration of contracted assistance is variable and, from a practical standpoint, depends on a presidential disaster declaration and subsequent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. However, without contractor assistance, completion time is estimated to be up to 12 weeks. Anxious residents can bring private tree debris to 703 SE 30th Street for immediate disposal.

FISCAL IMPACT –

It has been determined that contracted assistance can be retained at a cost of \$70 - \$85 per hour for tree/log mechanical loaders with operators and \$50 - \$60 per hour for haul units with drivers. The total estimated cost for contracted assistance is estimated at \$400,000.

RECOMMENDATION –

Authorize a rate of \$70 - \$85 per hour for tree/log mechanical loaders with operators and \$50 - \$60 per hour for tandem or equivalent box size haul trucks with drivers.

BACKGROUND –

The Public Works Department has previously conducted massive tree debris cleanups. Based on the experience gained, the City has applied for and received a burn permit, has established a drop-off location for those residents able to help themselves, and has developed a plan for completion of the required cleanup.

Burn Permit

To accelerate the work and to minimize the economic impact on Des Moines residents for the disposal of their tree debris, the City of Des Moines has obtained a burn permit at the undeveloped Hubbell Park site which lies southeast of the city in the vicinity of the old Iowa Power station. Surveillance is currently being provided at the site. All debris collected by City crews will be disposed of at the burn site.

Tree Debris Drop-Off Site

To accommodate private haulers serving Des Moines property owners and individual Des Moines residents, the City has opened a tree debris drop-off location at 703 SE 30th Street. The site will be monitored to ensure only City of Des Moines tree debris is disposed of. Residents may access the site between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Upon completion of the residential tree debris cleanup program, mechanical loaders will be used to load and haul out material at the drop-off site for final disposal at the burn site.

Proposed Plan for Tree Debris Cleanup

All available City crews not assigned to critical tasks and restoration requirements of recent flood and rain events will be assigned to tree debris removal. City crews will be augmented by the Des Moines Water Works, two trucks from the City of Ames, and the Iowa Department of Transportation as staff becomes available. In addition, a request has been made to the State Disaster Office for National Guard assistance. A crew will generally consist of a mechanical loader with operator, 4 - 6 haul trucks with drivers, and ground personnel consisting of chain saw operators and laborers. The crews will be dispatched to specific areas of the city which correspond with the City's snow removal districts. As one area is completed, crews will be reassigned until the program is completed.

Contracted Assistance

To augment City crews who have been assigned multiple tasks, arrangements have been made to secure contracted assistance to ensure completion of the tree debris cleanup program in a timely manner. It is estimate that the total cost for contracted assistance will be \$400,000. If FEMA funds are made available, 75 percent of contracted costs would be covered.