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Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kelly Willadsen, Parks and Recreation Director

Date: February 23, 2017

Re: Arbor Day

We are requesting that Mayor and City Council proclaim Saturday, April 22, 2017 to be observed as Arbor Day for the City of Hiawatha.

Proclaiming Arbor Day in Hiawatha is one of the requirements for recertification as a Tree City. Our purpose of recognizing Arbor Day will be to support the efforts to protect our trees and woodlands. We encourage all citizens to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. Hiawatha will continue with an annual Arbor Day celebration that will be a floating day so that we may schedule tree plantings and educational sessions as part of our observance.

This year Earth Day will fall on our proclaimed Arbor Day. This is a chance for all Hiawatha residents to drop off household chemicals, electronic equipment, documents for shredding, unserviceable flags, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription waste and cell phones. This year we will be offering seedlings for Hiawatha residents to plant. Staff will be volunteering and helping on this day. It continues to be a great event for our community and staff to participate in.

In addition, this year we applied for the Tree City USA Growth Award. This is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects, increased commitment resources for urban forestry, and provides a chance to share new ideas and successes.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. 17-
City Council

City of Hiawatha Arbor Day Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, Trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, Trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, Trees in our city increase property values enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Bennett, Mayor of the City of Hiawatha, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2017 as Arbor Day in the City of Hiawatha to coincide with the City's annual Earth Day event, and note that Arbor Day will be a floating day in Hiawatha, urging all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and further, urge all citizens to plant, nurture and celebrate trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 1st day of March, 2017.

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Bill Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kelly Kornegor, City Clerk