

**City of Oxford**

**Tree Board**

**Thursday, August 7th, 2025**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance**

Cowan Hunter, Mary Hartwell Howorth, Ed Croom, Josh White, Mark Levy, Ben Requet, Greg Pinion, Nick Matthews, Tympel Harrison, Matt Nielson

**Not in Attendance**

Hume Bryant, Jaclyn Colemeta, Hollis Green

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M and introduced the newest Board Member, Josh White.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Hunter motioned the approval of the August 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 agenda, Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded; all aye.

**3. Approval of July 2025 Minutes**

Commissioner Hunter motioned the Approval of the July 2025 minutes, Commissioner Howorth seconded; all aye.

**4. Departmental Reports and Issues**

**a. Building and Grounds**

1. Public assistance requests, responses and contacts re trees

Nick Matthews from the Building and Grounds department informed the Tree Board that the tree located on 712 S. Lamar has not yet been removed due to the wait time.

2. Discuss fall planting plans and data collection for updating Tree Plotter

Nick Matthews informed the Tree Board that Building and Grounds will be dividing into two separate departments i.e. Maintenance and Landscaping on October 1<sup>st</sup> and plan to start using Tree Plotter soon after. Nick Matthews

informed the Tree Board that the planting plans for the new year include replacing trees on Price Street and helping to donate tools to Saluting Branches.

**b. Planning**

1. Updates on current or pending development issues re trees, mitigation, etc.  
Ben Requet, Director of Planning reminded the Tree Board of the continuous interest in development and included the plans on adding a new onsite inspector. Ben Requet updated the Tree Board on the ecological design group for the new Parks and Trails Project coming to Oxford.

**c. Special Projects, Engineering**

1. Discuss projects for FY26 and proposed funding  
Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects informed the Tree Board of the upcoming projects for FY26 including the landscaping at the new Development Services Building, additional trees along Molly Bar, replacement of trees at the City Grocery Parking Lot, the new Police Department, Oxford Commons and the Pickle Ball Courts at Stone Park. There was further discussion.

**5. Business**

1. Consider funding recommendations for FY26 tree projects from mitigation escrow account for city budget  
Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board that he would like to look into recommended projects for consideration on cost for the FY26 budget.
2. MFC update re Oxford's Saluting Branches event, etc.  
Tympel Harrison, Urban Forester for Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), reminded the Tree Board of the upcoming Saluting Branches project on September 17<sup>th</sup> that will be held at the Mississippi State Veterans home and the importance of volunteers. Tympel also mentioned the importance of donations of soil and plants in order to prep the land for additions.

**6. Move to Adjourn**

Commissioner Hunter motioned to adjourn at 12:03 P.M., Commissioner Howorth seconded; all aye.