

February 2024 Minutes

In-Person Attendance

Cowan Hunter; Ed Croom; Mary Hartwell Howorth; Mike Grant

Not in Attendance

Allison Ferris; Hume Bryant; Benjamin Requet; Greg Pinion; Hollis Green; Jaclyn Colameta

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:15 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hunter motioned to approve the agenda, and Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded; all aye.

3. Approval of December 2024 Minutes

Commissioner Hartwell motioned to approve the December 2024 minutes; Commissioner Hunter seconded; all aye.

4. Departmental Issues and Reports:

a. Building and Grounds

i. Public Assistance Requests and Responses Regarding Trees:

Greg Pinion, the Building and Grounds Department Superintendent, could not attend this meeting. Mike Grant, Assistant Superintendent of Building and Grounds, informed the Tree Board that the trees his department received phone calls regarding were a private matter. There was further discussion.

ii. Report on Winter Tree Maintenance Along Lamar and Elsewhere:

Mike Grant informed the Tree Board that all hazards have been mitigated along Lamar and caused no major damage. In the near future Building and Grounds plans on planting thirty or so trees at the Conference Center and other various locations. There was further discussion.

iii. Discuss Potential Volunteer Tree Project for UM Big Event:

Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board that the Tree Project will be held at the end of March/beginning of April, allowing volunteers to help participate in planting at various locations. There was further discussion.

b. Planning

i. Update on Tree Removals/Mitigation Re Current Development Projects

Ben Requet, Director of Planning, did not attend this meeting.

c. Special Projects, Engineering

i. Update on Status and Timeline for FY25 Projects Tree Plans and Planting:

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects, did not attend this meeting. Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board that the Police Station is now complete with various types of trees i.e., Duraheat Riverburch, Tulip Poplar, Sweet Bay Magnolia,

and American Sycamore. Commissioner Hunter relayed to the Tree Board that the Swimming Pool Renovation is set to be completed by mid-May including landscaping. Commissioner Hunter discussed with the Tree Board that the Old Oxford Police Department Renovations should include partial interior renovation and only painting of the exterior with no tree planting planned at this time. Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board that the Woodlawn Davis Trail Extension will require some tree removal, but no significant trees. There was discussion.

d. Business

i. Tree City Update:

Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board that Commissioner Hume Bryant applied to be a part of Tree City, which was later approved, now renewing The City of Oxford's status as a Tree City. There was further discussion.

ii. Consider Steps for organizing and conducting reviews of completed projects:

Commissioner Hunter recommended accessing previous planting plans for Old Taylor for improvement. Commissioner Hunter requested that the Tree Board review older projects that could be improved. There was further discussion.

iii. Update from MFC Urban Forestry:

Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board that the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Urban Forestry is working on beginning Grant Funding. There was no further discussion.

iv. Consider individual participation in P.A.A.M:

Commissioner Hunter indicated the need for more participants relating to the Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi (P.A.A.M) i.e., Tree Board, Building and Grounds, and himself. There was discussion.

e. Adjourn

- i. Commissioner Hunter moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 A.M., Commissioner Hartwell seconded; all aye.