

City of Oxford

Tree Board

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Minutes

In Attendance

Cowan Hunter, Mary Hartwell Howorth, Hume Bryant, Ed Croom, Nick Matthews, Mark Levy, James Hirsch, Tympel Harrison

Not in Attendance

Josh White, Ben Requet, Hollis Green, Jaclyn Colemeta

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:08 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hunter motioned the approval of the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 agenda, Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded, all aye.

3. Approval of November 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Hunter motioned the approval of the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Minutes, Commissioner Howorth seconded, all aye.

4. Departmental Issues and Reports

1. Landscape Services

a. Public assistance request re trees

Nick Matthews from the Landscape Services Department, informed the Tree Board of a fallen tree removal at Oxford Memorial. Nick mentioned two deceased pines located on Charger Way that were removed by the owner due to the issue being a private matter. Nick updated the status of the tree located at the Community Gardens including that the sustained damages were not enough to justify removal.

b. Current or upcoming tree work

Nick informed the Tree Board that the Landscape Services Department is currently working on removing fallen limbs located in Avent Park.

2. Planning

a. Current/pending development issues re trees, mitigation, etc.

James Hirsch, City Planner 1, indicated that additional trees would be planted alongside the road on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson in front of Oxford Intermediate School. James mentioned the expansion of The Grove at Grand Oaks and plans for the parking lot trees that will soon be provided. James included the Weldon Development located on the corner of Molly Barr, Chickasaw Road and North Lamar with plans of tree removal and replacements on site. James mentioned the Grove at Grand Oaks phase 9 requires a finalized mitigation plan for site plan approval. There was further discussion.

b. Priorities for Tree Board action re “2022 Tree Ordinance Project”

James reminded the Tree Board of raising the cost of trees in order to reflect the material bids. James also indicated that there would be undisturbed areas marked in order to retain trees. There was further discussion.

3. Special Projects

a. Updates of FY26 project time frames, Tree plans, etc.

Mark Levy director of Special Projects was not in attendance for this meeting.

5. Business

a. Arbor Day recap and status of 2025 Tree City application

Tympel Harrison, Urban Forester for Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), informed the Tree Board of the six applicant’s submissions for the 2025 Tree City Application. There was further discussion.

6. Move to Adjourn

Commissioner Hunter motioned to approve this meeting 11:54 A.M.