

MINUTES

**City of Oxford
Tree Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 7, 2024, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
City Hall Boardroom**



In-Person Attendance

Allison Ferris; Cowan Hunter; Ed Croom; Mark Levy; Mary Hartwell Howorth

Remote Attendance

Hume Bryant

Not In Attendance

Benjamin Requet; Greg Pinion; Hollis Green; Jaclyn Colameta

Notice that certain aldermen or commissioners may be included in the meeting via teleconference, subject to the City of Oxford Code of Ordinances, Section 2-82.

1. Call to order.

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:03 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda.

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

3. Approval of October 2024 Minutes.

Commissioner Hume Bryant motioned to approve the October 2024 Minutes, and Commissioner Hunter seconded; all aye.

4. Departmental Issues and Reports:

a. Buildings & Grounds Department

i. Public Assistance Requests and Responses.

Greg Pinion, the Superintendent for the Building and Grounds Department, could not attend this meeting. Commissioner Hunter reminded the Tree Board about the Rotary Club's request concerning Pat Lamar Park. Commissioner Hunter indicated that he did not see an issue with removing the Red Bud Tree for the Rotary Club Project. There was discussion. Commissioner Bryant indicated he would like to ask the Rotary Club to replace the tree. Commissioner Hunter moved to approve removal, but would also like a new tree to be provided in its place. Commissioner Bryant seconded; all aye.

ii. Current/Pending Lamar Tree Maintenance per Assessments.

Greg Pinion, the Building and Grounds Department Superintendent, could not attend this meeting.

b. Other Fall/Winter Planting Maintenance or Planting Projects.

Greg Pinion, the Building and Grounds Department Superintendent, could not attend this meeting.

c. Development Services-Planning Department

- i. Update Regarding Current/Pending Development Project Tree Issues.
Ben Requet, Director of Planning, did not attend this meeting.
 - d. General Government-Special Projects Department
 - i. Update Status of Current Projects Regarding Tree Plans, Planting, etc.
Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects, discussed the completion of the Oxford Square Downtown Detention Project i.e. the City Grocery Parking Lot. There was further discussion. Mark discussed the planting for this project i.e. five trees were planted. Mark discussed the timeline of the landscaping for the new Oxford Police Station and that it was anticipated to begin in the next two to three weeks. There was discussion regarding the rehabilitation of certain trees in this area. Mark discussed the progress on the City Swimming Pool and various projects throughout the City i.e. the mTrade Pavilion.
5. Consider new business:
- a. Arbor Day Recap and Follow-Up.
Commissioner Hunter discussed the success of the Arbor Day celebration on November 1st at The Garden Terrace Park. Commissioner Hunter asked the Tree Board if they had ideas for the future on ways to improve attendance and mentioned the poster contest. There was discussion. Commissioner Hunter encouraged the Tree Board to think of ideas for future events. Commissioner Hunter thanked all participants and volunteers.
 - b. Further Consideration Regarding Reassessment of Past Parking Lot Projects.
Commissioner Hunter indicated that Matt Nielson, Green Grove Arborist, had mentioned new projects for tree planting in parking lots and recommended looking at projects for reassessment. Commissioner Hunter inquired with the Tree Board regarding a starting point for reassessment and discussed ideas such as looking at a current list of parking lots. Commissioner Hunter asked the Tree Board to think about this moving forward. There was further discussion. A "Friends of the Forest" member mentioned the need to remember climate change when considering certain trees. There was further discussion. Mark Levy discussed landscape plans about the tree canopy. There was further discussion. Commissioner Hunter asked the Tree Board to look at parking lots before the next meeting.
 - c. Updates Regarding Mississippi Forestry Commission and Hill Country Roots.
Commissioner Hunter indicated there were no new updates from the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC).

Commissioner Hunter reported that Matt Nielson, Green Grove Arborist and Advisor for Hill Country Roots (HCR), noted they've done various projects with mixed results. Commissioner Hunter noted that HCR is a student-led organization at Ole Miss. There was further discussion about Matt's work with the Building and Grounds Department regarding the reassessment project as well as the first round of trees that had been treated and other recommendations.

Bruce Johnson, with the local "Master Gardner's" group, noted that they enjoyed Arbor Day, discussed their group, and indicated he was interested in helping with further projects. Commissioner Hunter expressed his appreciation.
6. Move to Adjourn.
- Commissioner Hunter moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 P.M., Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded; all aye.

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