

MINUTES

**City of Oxford
Tree Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 3, 2024, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
City Hall Boardroom**



In Attendance

Allison Ferris; Cowan Hunter; Ed Croom; Greg Pinion; Hume Bryant; Mark Levy; Mary Hartwell Howorth

Not In Attendance

Benjamin Requet; 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 11:16 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Hunter noted an additional item number regarding a project would be added to the Building and Grounds section of the agenda. Commissioner Hunter motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Hume Bryant seconded, and all aye.

3. Approval of September 2024 Minutes.

Commissioner Bryant motioned to approve the September 2024 Minutes, and Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded; all aye.

4. Departmental Issues and Reports:

a. Buildings & Grounds Department

i. Public Assistance Requests or Responses.

Greg Pinion, Building and Grounds Superintendent, noted his department received approximately 11 requests for public assistance. Greg indicated a dead tree was removed within the City Right-of-Way. Greg also discussed other removals that occurred. Per Greg, there was trimming of a specimen tree on University Avenue and 16th Street. Greg noted other matters were general pruning or on private property. There was discussion. Greg indicated his department does attempt to assess for potential issues, but the majority of concerns are brought to his attention by concerned citizens. Greg discussed how citizens can report concerns i.e. through the City of Oxford website. There was discussion.

ii. Update Regarding Lamar Tree Assessments and Maintenance.

Greg indicated the Lamar Tree Assessment was finished and discussed the inventory, summary, and plan for a pruning program. Greg noted that 24 large, mature trees had been identified as "low-risk" except for one. Greg recommended the trees be looked at further for future maintenance/assessment. There was further discussion regarding potential tree health concerns and a timeline to address areas of concern.

Greg noted his department received a request for tree removal at Lamar Park from the Rotary Club of Oxford for a potential project to install a flagpole. There was discussion. Commissioner Howorth inquired if the Rotary Club offered to replace the tree and Greg indicated they did. There was more discussion regarding the location of the

request/design and assessing the site. Commissioner Hunter indicated after the site assessment the Tree Board could discuss the potential removal further at the next meeting.

iii. Update Regarding Mayo Residence Construction and Tree Removals.

Greg reported the Board of Alderman approved an ingress/egress license for this construction site and indicated the work should begin within the next thirty days.

iv. Site-Visit and Assessment of Garden Terrace Park.

Commissioner Hunter reported he and Greg had looked at Garden Terrace Park. Greg indicated it was a good location for Arbor Day 2024. There was discussion.

Commissioner Croom inquired who oversees the parks throughout the City. There was discussion. Greg indicated a list of parks was on the City of Oxford website.

b. Development Services-Planning Department

i. Update Regarding Current and Pending Development Project Tree Issues.

Ben Requet, Director of Planning, was not present.

c. General Government-Special Projects Department

i. Update on the Status of Current Projects Regarding Tree Plans, Planting, etc.

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects, discussed the Harrison/City Grocery Parking Lot Project. Mark indicated trees could be planted by the end of October or early November.

Mark indicated the Oxford Police Department Project was on schedule and noted he planned to request the removal of the crate myrtles due to their condition/diseased state. Mark asked the Tree Board to go assess the area and further discussed the landscape plan i.e. to plant new shade trees. There was discussion.

Mark reported the City Swimming Pool Project was underway.

Mark reported a fence would be put in near the Cemetery Ditch.

5. Consider New Business:

a. Consider and Finalize Plans for Oxford Arbor Day 2024.

Commissioner Hunter reported he sent the Mayor the Tree Board's recommendations for Arbor Day 2024. Per Commissioner Hunter, the date will be November 1st, 2024, and Alderman Brian Hyneman can be present. Commissioner Hunter discussed the Arbor Day Resolution and the Board of Alderman meeting on Tuesday, October 15th. There was further discussion about site preparation. Commissioner Hunter noted Commissioner Bryant is communicating with the Oxford Garden Club. Commissioner Hunter invited the "Friends of the Forest" members present at the meeting to participate in the tree planting for Arbor Day 2024. The members present indicated they were willing to volunteer. Greg and Commissioner Hunter encouraged everyone to visit the park and let Greg know if they have specific ideas for the type of trees to plant. There was further discussion regarding program ideas i.e. the history of Arbor Day and the possible poster contest. Commissioner Hunter proposed the theme "Planting Today for Trees Tomorrow". Tympe Harrison, Urban Forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), proposed an idea for next year regarding a national poster contest. There was discussion.

b. Consider Possible Review and Reassessment of Past Parking Lot Tree Projects.

Commissioner Hunter indicated this item could be discussed further at a future meeting, but noted Matt Nielson, Green Grove Arborist, had brought this topic to his attention. There was discussion. Commissioner Hunter indicated he believed it beneficial to review this topic.

6. Move to Adjourn.

Commissioner Hunter moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 P.M., Commissioner Bryant seconded; all aye.

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