



**Tuesday, August 28, 2018, 4:00 pm
City Greenhouse**

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Cynthia Ball, John Parker

Residents Present: Ellen Hanck, Karen Hartmann

Staff Present: Todd Gibson, Tom Speir, Melissa Vassallo

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

July 31st meeting minutes were approved with no changes needed.

Old Business:

The members spoke about the Tree & Stump Contractor Removal. EcoTree Services started the removals about mid-August. The contractors will remove the trees and stumps on the list, refill with soil and seed. Todd told the members EcoTree has 3 crews: 2 crews doing tree removals and 1 crew doing stump removals.

Ms. Hanck asked how much a removal costs and was told between \$1,000.00 - \$1,200.00 per tree. Todd explained the Issue 8 money is being used to help with the maintenance & the upkeep of the City trees.

Tom talked about the Gartland Avenue trees. He said the contractor for that project has a deadline of September 30 but they can't plant the trees yet. The type of trees that were chosen, Ivory Silks, cannot be planted until October or November. These trees have to be dormant when planted. The City wants the trees to be planted for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

New Business:

Before speaking to the residents about their trees and his assessments, Tom communicated to them that the Tree Commission is only an advisory board and finally decisions cannot be made by the members.

Tom read the inspections results for the tree at 423 Taylor Street, which is the tree that Karen Hartmann was at the meeting to discuss. Karen lives at 421 Taylor Street but says the tree next door

is tangled in the wires & encroaching on both houses. Per Tom's inspection, the tree is in fair/good condition. He said, "There are dead branches and areas that are prone to rot at branch attachment locations." He stated that the "only long term remedy for the wrong tree in the wrong spot is removal". Tom did tell Ms. Hartmann that we cannot give her a timeframe for removal at this time. When she asked if it would be months or years, she was told by Todd, yes months, we hope not years. It was explained we have a small forestry crew and things such as storm damage and vehicle repairs puts us days and even weeks behind.

Tom said he had not made it out to inspect Ellen Hanck's tree at 523 McEwen Street yet. Ms. Hanck said it needs limbed up a lot or removed. It is a messy tree and it is awful to try to take care of. Jim added that most of the trees in that area need limbed up. Tom stated the Linden is not a good type of tree to go on the street.

Tom told the group he has been visiting sites for the fall tree plantings. He has been trying to contact the residents who have made requests to discuss tree options with them. Tom let the members know we have \$10,000.00 budgeted for replacements. Tom told everyone we are looking into contracting the fall replacements out. One of the residents asked why and Todd said it is due to time restraints and man power. This way will cost a little more per tree but our forestry department will be able to get more done on their current lists instead of putting them more behind. Tom expressed that he prefers our guys to do it because it is cheaper and we have more say as to how it is being done. Jim agreed and said he would be concerned that a contractor might do it incorrectly and our guys have done an excellent job in the past. The same concern was said by Cynthia and if the contractor does it wrong, we are wasting our money.

The next Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25th, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Cynthia Ball
Chairperson

Melissa Vassallo
Clerk