

MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
1st Floor Conference Room West, City Hall, 900 Quay St.

Commissioners Present: Al Schema, Horst Abel, Alder Vanderkin, Tim Randerson

Staff Present: Dan Koski, Billy Hutterer, Alvin Rehme

Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the 11/17/2020 meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Public Input Session

None

Election of Officers

Motion by H. Abel, seconded by T. Randerson to elect A. Schema as Chairman. T. Holschbach to remain as Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

- 41 locations since 11/17/20
- 60 ash + 35 other trees removed
- 40 locations pruned
- 1 callout
- 4 requests for trimming remain
- 125 requests for removals remain
- 29 4D private trees
- 4 inspection requests on backlog
- 26 loads of firewood delivered
- Mike LeMahieu Tree Service submitted low quote to remove 23 terrace trees beginning in March.
- Mike LeMahieu Tree Service submitted low quote to remove 6 trees & stumps for the Engineering Division's sidewalk replacement program. Weather permitting, work will begin in March.
- Forestry crew worked with MPU & Dave's Tree Service to remove 14 trees & trim 10 trees.
- The following tree plantings are being planned:
 - 44 trees on N & S 8th St. by Community Development Dept.
 - 34 trees along the new Bay Shore Dr. by Community Development Dept.
 - 30 trees along S. 30th St. as part of road reconstruction project by Engineering Division

Update on the forestry fund

The current balance is \$7210.98. It does not include revenues or expenses from 2020 or 2021. Funds from 2020 will be transferred once auditors complete their work in March or April.

Urban forestry grant opportunities

The City has received a \$500 American Transmission Corporation tree planting grant, which is earmarked for Red Arrow Park.

Revisions to the Tree Maintenance & Removal Policy

The policy shall remain the same.

Tree ordinance violations over the street & sidewalk

The policy shall remain the same.

Addition of the Tree Planting Plan into the Street Tree Planting Policy

Tabled. The policy is still under review.

Arbor Day 2021

The Commission discussed having a virtual Arbor Day observance along with a traditional tree planting, likely in a park. Tree seedlings will be distributed to approximately 100 3rd graders.

2020 Tree City USA Application

The Commission reviewed the 2020 Tree City USA Application which was submitted.

Tree for a Tree Program

A. Rehme explained the program and stated that 75 vouchers were given out at the Manitowoc County Recycling Facility on Basswood Road. Participants will redeem the vouchers in spring at Silver Creek Nurseries.

Ash Tree Timber Sale from Camp Vits

A. Rehme led a discussion of selling ash tree timber from Camp Vits. A motion was made by A. Schema and seconded by H. Abel to proceed with the sale. The motion was amended by A. Schema and seconded by T. Randerson that the money from the sale of timber be used at Camp Vits for improvements. The motion passed unanimously.

Burning of Brush at Hecker Road Gravel Pit

A. Rehme discussed burning brush at the Hecker Road Gravel Pit with the Commission.

Fee Increase for Street Tree Removal Permits

A motion was made by A. Schema and seconded by T. Randerson to increase the cost for Street Tree Removal Permits that do not qualify for a waiver of fees from \$50 to \$75. Motion passed unanimously.

Need to Increase Tree Planting in the City of Manitowoc

A. Rehme explained the need to the Commission, and the Commission discussed some ideas.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.