



MINUTES OF AN OFFICIAL MEETING:

Regular / Special Meeting: Forestation Commission
Date and Time: Monday, December 6, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall, 2000 N. Calhoun Rd., Brookfield, WI, Main Conference Room
Members Present: Ald. Blumer; Ald. Wilson; Ald. Christianson; Ald. Jurken
Members Excused: Ald. Meza
Others Present: Gary Majeskie, Parks and Forestry Superintendent; John Kelliher, Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry; Diana Smeltzer, Recording Secretary

1. Roll Call

- a. Ald. Blumer noted a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Announcements

The Next Regularly Scheduled meeting is TBD.

Mr. Majeskie and the Commission discussed the possibility of regularly scheduled meetings or as needed. It was determined that meetings would be held on an as needed basis.

3. MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the March 29, 2018 meeting.

Motion by Ald. Jurken, second by Ald. Wilson to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2018, Forestry Commission meeting. Motion carried 4-0

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation of Historical Role of Committee

Mr. Majeskie presented the purpose and intent of the Committee.

The committee recommended adoption of the Urban Forestry Ordinance and Management Plan in 1998, which included the following key points:

1. Centralized citywide tree management under the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.
2. Maintain City trees in a healthy and no-hazardous condition through good arboricultural practices.
3. Promote efficient and cost-effective management of the Urban Forest.
4. Foster community support for the local urban forestry program and encourage good tree management on private property.

b. Current/Future Projects and Initiatives

Mr. Majeskie provided a handout listing past initiatives of the committee: Landscape projects, Insect, and Disease Initiatives.

c. Emerald Ash Borer Update

1. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in Brookfield on March 2016 on Elm Grove Road. The whole state is quarantined, and it is recommended to prevent firewood from moving from one location to another.
2. We are now on the backside of the EAB bell Curve. The trees removed peaked in 2019-2020 at 1407 trees. There are only 507 trees projected for removal in 2021-2022.
3. We are currently in Reactive strategies which include removing dead, infested trees and planting other species.
4. The Department has also treated a limited number of trees.
5. The future of Ash trees? The research shows some ash trees will regenerate as the Emerald Ash Borer population declines due to host trees disappearing.

d. Tree City USA Update

Mr. Majeskie initiated this program in the community, and the City has received this designation for approximately 24 years. The application is due December 31, 2021. A benefit to being a part of Tree City USA allows us the ability to apply for grants.

e. Forestry Operation Update

Mr. Majeskie indicated the following activities are part of the Forestry Operation:

1. Stump removal- The staff will grind the stump and pick up the excess chips leaving the ground flat.
2. Tree removal- The Department removes trees that are diseased or dead on City property or rights-of-way.
3. Tree pruning. The Department prunes trees on City property or rights-of-way. Pruning activities will increase as we move past EAB tree removal.
4. The Department plants trees to replace removed trees creating diversity in species.

f. Upcoming Landscape Projects/Process

Mr. Majeskie shared the following upcoming Landscape Projects and the Process:

1. Calhoun Road – Funding for this project should be in the 2023 budget. Planning and design will occur in fall/winter of 2022 with installation in the spring of 2023. The Forestation Committee will be part of the review process for the project. The Request for Proposal should go out early 2023.
2. North Avenue – Funding for this project may occur in the 2024 budget. Since North Avenue is a county road, it will require a permit/approval from Waukesha County. If the city receives a permit, planning and design should occur in fall/winter of 2023 with installation in the spring of 2024. The Forestation Committee would be part of this review process. Director Grisa in Public Works will be involved as he is in contact with the County.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Christiansen, seconded by Ald. Wilcox to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

*Documents are on file at the Department Office for public review.

Respectfully Submitted:

Gary Majeskie, Parks and Forestry Superintendent