

Approved December 19, 2019

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21, 2017 - 5:30 P.M.

PARKS AND RECREATION HEADQUARTERS

MEMBERS

X	Dr. Maurice Holt, Chair
X	Terry Plauche, Vice-Chair
X	William Rooks, Sec/Treasurer
	Dr. Rip Pfeiffer
X	Cleve Formwalt
X	Jesse McDaniel
	Evan Cox

STAFF

	Parks and Recreation	Matthew Capps
X	Urban Forestry	Gerard McCants
X	Urban Forestry	Peter Toler
X	Alabama Power	Eric Garret
X	Planning & Zoning	Richard Olsen
X	Legal	Melissa Mutert

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M. and noted that the number of members present represented a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Mr. Plauche, to approve the minutes from the following meeting:

- February 2016

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rooks presented the Treasurer's Report with an ending balance of \$19,554.47, after a donation of \$6,200.00 from the Hilton Garden Inn.

A motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. Rooks, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

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PERMIT REQUESTS:

P-2017-003

Henry H. Pope

3761 Government Boulevard

(South side of Government Boulevard, 200'± West of the terminus of Butler Drive)

Remove five 8" Bradford Pears

Henry H. Pope, property owner at 3761 Government Boulevard, Mobile, AL, stated that these trees were 6" from his property line. He stated that when the trees were planted 20 years ago by Secor Bank, they thought they were planting on private property, but they were planted on the right-of-way instead. They are planted directly under power lines which would be a problem as they grow quickly and were about two and a half feet under the power lines at that time. He wanted to replace them with sago palms.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Formwalt, with second by Mr. Rooks, to deny the request for removal of five Bradford Pear trees at the above referenced location. It was recommended that the applicant call 311 and request that the trees be trimmed.

The motion carried unanimously.

P-2017-004

Chris Francis, Agent for David Cooper, Sr.

102 Ryan Avenue

(Northeast corner of Ryan Avenue and Old Shell Road)

Trim two live oaks on Ryan Avenue and one live oak on Old Shell Road

Chris Francis, Chris Francis Tree Service, 8266 County Road 64, Daphne, AL, represented the request on behalf of the property owner, David Cooper. He stated that the request was to prune dead wood, improve the health of the trees, and limit liability for both the City and Mr. Cooper. He wanted to remove girdling roots that could choke the tree. He also wanted to do directional pruning on the tree on the Old Shell Road side of the property as the limbs were near the house.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Mr. Plauche, to approve the request to trim two live oaks on Ryan Avenue and one live oak on Old Shell Road, subject to the following conditions:

1. All work to be performed by/under the supervision of a certified arborist;
2. Work is to be coordinated with Urban Forestry;
3. The applicant to obtain a right-of-way permit, if one is necessary.

The motion carried unanimously.

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P-2017-005

Thomas Doyle, Agent for Joseph Kenny

400 St. Louis Street

(North side of St Louis Street, between N Hamilton and N Franklin Streets)

Remove five trees: one 3” caliper Live Oak; 6” caliper Live Oak; one 10” caliper Live Oak; and two 18’ tall Crepe Myrtles

Thomas Doyle, LA+South, 354 Dauphin Street, Mobile, AL, spoke on behalf of Joseph Kenney for Precision Engineering. He stated that their project included an entire block downtown and would include demolition of the entire right-of way and replacing sidewalks, curbs and gutter sidewalks and trees. Three of the trees, one oak and two crepe myrtles, were in poor condition. Two of the live oaks were healthy, and although they would be in agreement with staff recommendations, but they requested removing all five trees as the building next door was being demolished, and they were concerned about construction activity harming the trees. No new trees are being required for the project, but his client would be putting in 31 new 3” caliper trees on their private property.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. Formwalt, to:

1. Deny the request to remove the 6” and 10” live oaks;
2. Approve of the request to remove the 3” live oak and two crepe myrtles.

The approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. All work is to be at the applicant’s expense; and
2. All work in the right-of-way requires a right-of-way permit.

The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Linda St. John, President, Village of Spring Hill, 1358-B Old Shell Road, #145, Mobile, AL, addressed the members of the Tree Commission and thanked them for the \$1200.00 grant for the round-about project in the Village of Spring Hill. They added an additional \$1000.00 and were able to plant 45 gallon live oaks instead of 30 gallon trees. She came before the Commission now with a request to be allowed to hire a licensed and bonded landscape company to trim drake elms throughout the Village of Spring Hill. They wanted to take care of the trees they had already planted. Mr. McCants had told her that the City did not have the manpower to reshape the trees in the manner they want. Alabama Power had come through and trimmed the trees previously, and they were upset by the method used to trim the trees as it destroyed the shape of the trees.

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After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. Rooks, to approve the above request, subject to the following conditions:

1. Approval is not continuous and is limited to this job only (trimming Drake Elms on Old Shell and McGregor). All work is to be done at the applicant's expense;
2. All work is to be done by or under the supervision of a certified, licensed and bonded arborist;
3. All work is to be coordinated with the Forestry Unit of Parks and Recreation Department; and
4. All work in the right-of-way requires a right-of-way permit.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Olsen opened a discussion about a City of Mobile Engineering Department project that would require removal of a number of pine trees and whether or not all trees would have to come before the Tree Commission for approval to remove or if it could be approved administratively.

After discussion, the consensus among Commission members was that they must request MTC approval for the removal of any long-leaf pines.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 P.M.