

Approved December 19, 2019

**TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 17, 2017 - 4:30 P.M.**

**CoM MEETING ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, GOVERNMENT PLAZA**

**MEMBERS**

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

**STAFF**

X	Urban Forestry	Peter Toler
X	Alabama Power	Eric Garrett
X	Planning & Zoning	Richard Olsen

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. and noted that the number of members present represented a quorum.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Rooks presented the Treasurer's Report with an ending balance of \$16,774.57 after a \$1200.00 donation from Cefco (BOA-000137-2017).

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**PERMIT REQUESTS:**

**City of Mobile, Nick Amberger City Engineer**

**Tiger Grant Project, Phase I**

**Remove 43 trees of various species and in various locations along and in Broad Street and Beauregard Street, from Water Street to Congress Street.**

Nick Amberger, City Engineer, City of Mobile, AL, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL, represented the request along with the following staff members and consultants working on the project: Denise Brown, Mary Beth Sullivan, and Jim Crowe and Blake Smisson, landscape designers from WAS Design.

They made the following points in support of the request:

## Tree Commission Minutes

October 17, 2017

PAGE 2

- The TIGER project is a grant of \$14,000,000 in federal funds designated to rebuild the Broad Street corridor starting at Water Street to I-10 to Dr. MLK Boulevard. It will be a major transformative project for the City's infrastructure;
- The information presented today is only Phase One of four phases; this phase is from Water Street to Congress Street. There are no large historic oaks involved in this phase of the project;
- The Complete Streets design would include accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists, and certainly landscaping is only one part of the project;
- The design called for removal of 29 live oaks and 13 crepe myrtles which would be replaced by 49 nuttall oaks and 23 crepe myrtles;
- The 18' median is being reduced to 12', and the existing curb line is not changing except at intersections. The reduction of the median and reducing automobile lanes from three lanes in each direction to two lanes will allow for the addition of bike lanes and making pedestrians crosswalks safer;
- Federal guidelines and City requirements do not always coincide, so they have tried to work with the requirements of both;
- MAWSS will be making drainage improvements;
- The project will be in phases over four to five years to make a loop around Downtown Mobile with pedestrian and bicycle lanes that is both aesthetically pleasing and safe.

A motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Mr. Plauche, to approve the request, subject to the following conditions:

1. All work to be performed under the supervision of a certified arborist;
2. The applicant or his contractor obtain the necessary right-of-way permits, if any;
3. All work to be coordinated with Urban Forestry.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Ellen Lursen, Director of the City of Mobile Animal Shelter, represented the request from Harris Oswalt of Mobile Gas for a donation to cover the cost of one tree and planting in Gucci's Garden at the Mobile Animal Shelter.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. Formwalt, to approve a donation to purchase two 25-gallon live oak trees from A Bloom Nursery with A Bloom Nursery planting the trees in Gucci's Garden at the City of Mobile Animal Shelter, per the quote submitted by the applicant, for a total donation of \$700.00.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Tree Commission Minutes**

**October 17, 2017**

**PAGE 3**

- Mr. Toler discussed the following Administrative Approvals granted to:
  - Alabama Power Company for the removal of trees (three water oaks) from the 1000 block of Old Shell Road and the corner of Bayou Street and Saint Francis, and the trimming of trees on the east side of N. Jefferson Street between Saint Anthony Street and Saint Louis Street and on the south side of Saint Francis Street between Bayou Street and Broad Street, for the installation of new power lines.
  - C. Thornton, Inc. for the removal of a tree at 58 South McGregor Avenue due to damage to the root structure during construction of the sidewalk project.
  - MAWSS for the removal of a live oak at 1762 Dauphin Street to perform an emergency repair of sewer lateral running underneath the tree.
- A letter to the Tree Commission members from Myrt Jones was included in packets provided to Commission members. There was no discussion.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Mr. Toler introduced his son, Peter Toler, who is working on his citizenship and community badge for the local Boy Scouts' Troop #3 which requires attending a public meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.