

Tree Commission July 2026 (Minutes)

Members Present –

Louise McClelland

Stevie Cain

Quin Hillyer

William Rooks

Andrew Blejwas

Urban Forestry – Donovan Ballard

Legal Dept – Victoria Shoots

Alabama Power – Eric Garrett

Louise motions to adopt agenda. Andrew seconds. Motion passes

Minutes are reviewed from June meeting. Quin motions to accept draft minutes that were posted to website. Louise seconds. Motion passes.

Andrew provided treasury report remains same month over month at \$29,332.86. At this time no payments outstanding, but Donovan will check. Quin motions to accept treasury and Louise seconds. Motion passes.

The first permit request is at 307 N Jackson St. This was hold over from June meeting. No representative was present for July meeting and permit was dropped from future agendas.

The second permit 357 Kennedy St was presented. This also was for a tree removal for a driveway, but there is confusion if it was for a preexisting house, or a potential new house. No representative

Old Business

William discussed his meeting with Mayor's Staff Candace Cooksey. The meeting was productive and preliminary reviews showed the project had extra complexity with multiple agencies and spanned both administrations and Urban Forestry Directors that led to communication errors. The permits were also approved to be bypassed previously, and this may have inadvertently included the trees.

The expectation is that if any changes are recommended to legal process of permits, or any other finds, the Mayor's office will provide update through the city representatives at the

Commission Meetings. They would also like to continue to build communication to work with commission in the future.

New Business

Discussion focused on ensuring that the city support of the Tree Commission website would continue. The agenda would be posted on the site along with meeting minutes. The only legal requirement is the agenda is posted on the city board 7 days prior to meeting.

There has been discussion of changing time of meeting, but no vote was taken.

Announcements

Urban Forestry – Continuing to work with Alabama Power throughout city

Lots of trees were down with storms in early July

Adjourn

Louise motioned, William Seconded. Motion passed.