

# MOBILE TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 17, 2019 - 4:30 P.M.

## OLD PRE-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1ST FLOOR, GOVERNMENT PLAZA

### MEMBERS

X	1	Dr. Maurice Holt
X	2	Jesse McDaniel, Chair
	3	
X	4	Teresa Tessner
	5	Evan Cox
X	6	William Rooks, Sec/Treasurer
X	7	Terry Plauche, Vice-Chair

### STAFF

X	Urban Forestry	Peter Toler
X	Alabama Power	Eric Garrett
	Planning & Zoning	Margaret Pappas
X	Planning & Zoning	Bert Hoffman
X	Legal	Cherlina Monteiro

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the Boy Scouts that were in attendance. He called roll and noted that the number of members present constituted a quorum.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After discussion, the Chair opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

2016: June 21, July 19, September 20, October 18, December 20;

2017: January 17, February 21, March 21, June 06, July 18, October 17, November 21, December 19;

2018: March 20.

A motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Dr. Holt, to approve the minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Rooks presented the Treasurer's report stating that there was no activity and the ending balance as of October 31, 2019 was \$32,774.57.

### PERMIT REQUESTS

#### **Downtown Mobile Alliance / Top Notch Tree Care**

Across from 20 South Royal Street

(East side of South Royal Street, 150 ± feet south of Dauphin Street)

Removal of two maple trees.

Council District 2

MTC-049026-2019

## **Tree Commission Minutes**

**December 17, 2019**

**PAGE 2**

Mr. Billy Allen, Top Notch Tree Care, 415 Celeste Road, Saraland, AL, spoke on behalf of the request made by the Downtown Mobile Alliance to remove two maple trees across from 20 South Royal Tree due to the poor aesthetics and declining health of the trees. They intend to replace the trees with a species more suited to the site such as cabbage palms.

After discussion, the Chair opened the floor for a motion. A motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Dr. Holt, to approve the request for removal, subject to the following conditions:

1. Replacement tree species and size to be approved by the Urban Forester;
2. Tree removal permit be issued to a certified arborist who is licensed and bonded to work in the City of Mobile; and
3. All work in the right-of-way, including tree removal and tree replanting, to be coordinated with Urban Forestry and the Permitting/Right-of-Way Division.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **A. Committee reports**

The Chair noted that there were no reports of committees.

#### **B. Urban Forestry update: Peter Toler**

Mr. Toler provided the Commission with a list of trees trimmed or removed based on emergencies or that were interfering with public service. He stated that the report was based on 311 calls referred to the Urban Forestry Department. He stated that he would be providing this report to the Commissioners for their information on a regular basis.

Ms. Monteiro clarified that the way Mr. Toler and his staff must prioritize their daily work was based on evaluating whether a service request was an emergency, whether there was imminent danger, or whether or not requests should be referred to the Tree Commission for approval. She further stated that Mr. Toler could provide more or less information in his report each month.

#### **C. Alabama Power update: Eric Garrett**

Mr. Garrett stated that there was not a lot going on in the City at the present time, but he has been trying to notify the Commission member in the district when he does see service work orders come up or when there is a planned maintenance request. He will give Commissioners an area overlay when they do begin routine trimming at the beginning of the year.

**Tree Commission Minutes**

**December 17, 2019**

**PAGE 3**

Mr. Toler and Mr. Garrett suggested study materials that the Commissioners might choose to read to familiarize themselves with terminology that they will see in various reports. Mr. Toler agreed to forward a list of the suggested books to Commissioners for their consideration.

**D. TIGER Project update:** Catherine Clark, Major Projects, Engineering Department

Catherine Clark, speaking on behalf of the City of Mobile Engineering Department, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL. She reviewed updated plans for the ongoing Broad Street TIGER project that illustrated trees approved for removal as well as trees that will be planted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Toler announced that he posted the next Arbor Day date on his facebook page. He stated that the location has not yet been determined, but they will be giving trees away again. They have also finalized their 41st Tree City USA application.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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