

TREE COMMISSION

January 27, 2025

The January 27, 2025 Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers by Chari Alesch, Chairperson. Tree Commission members present were Chari Alesch, Jason Lemire, and John Walker. Judi Lambrite and Nate Treadway were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

At this time the Mayor swore in Jason Lemire and John Walker as reappointed members of the Tree Commission.

The minutes of the October 28, 2024 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that the six (6) trees ordered from North Branch Nursery in the fall of 2024, as reported at the October 28, 2024 Tree Commission meeting, have been planted.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery has provided quotes on the following tree work:

- \$3,500.00 to remove a large maple tree and stump at 221 South Hazel Street, east side of the street, as the tree has nearly overgrown the tree lawn, located between the sidewalk and street, is losing dead branches and has raised the sidewalk; and
- \$4,500.00 to remove a large maple tree and stump at 225 South Hazel Street, east side of the street, as the tree has overgrown the tree lawn, located between the sidewalk and street, has raised the sidewalk and is leaning towards the house; and
- both of the aforementioned trees will require Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery to cut branches and lower limbs to the ground due to the overhead power lines.
- \$1,600.00 to prune a large elm tree at 302 Second Street, located at the corner of Second Street and Finley Street and on the Finley Street side, by trimming, shaping, and taking out the dead wood.
- \$175.00 to remove a stump at 314 Second Street.
- \$2,400.00 to prune or \$5,900.00 to remove a large elm tree and stump at the rear of 849 Marseilles Avenue that is located along the City alley and within the City right-of-way, as the tree has a large limb that split over the alley, has a lot of dead wood in the canopy, the main trunk is hollowing and the bark is starting to loosen, and it overhangs the adjacent home, adjacent church, and adjacent church parking lot. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that he prefers the tree be removed as it will have to be removed eventually, and he requested Tree Commission members look at the tree.

A motion was made by Mr. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve \$15,675.00 in tree work quoted by Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery as presented. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Niederkohr stated that he will also have Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery look at a tree located near the intersection of South Eighth Street and South Street, on the north side of the road, as it is losing branches.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that the City's bucket truck will be serviced and recertified next week.

The replacement of trees removed by the City was discussed. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that he has developed a spreadsheet of tree removals throughout the City since 2016. Mr. Niederkohr also noted that three hundred eighteen (318) trees have been planted throughout the City since 2016.

Mr. Niederkohr inquired with Tree Commission members about where they think the City’s 2025 Arbor Day Program should be held and what type of tree should be planted. Mr. Niederkohr suggested the City’s Dog Park be considered for a tree planting as part of the City’s 2025 Arbor Day Program. Ms. Alesch indicated that her family frequently visits the Dog Park and a pavilion or shade structure would be beneficial. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that a resident has assisted with developments at the Dog Park and he will inquire with this resident about the availability of funding to place a shade structure at the Dog Park. Mr. Niederkohr will also research types of trees that would be beneficial to this area.

Mayor McColly reported that the annual Tree City USA Awards Program will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 in Bowling Green, Ohio.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Chari Alesch, Chairperson