

TREE COMMISSION

March 24, 2025

The March 24, 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, Judi Lambrite, Jason Lemire, and John Walker. Nate Treadway was absent.

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

The minutes of the January 27, 2025 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

Registration information has been submitted for four (4) City representatives to attend the annual Tree City USA Awards Program to be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The City's annual Arbor Day Program will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025 at the Dog Park, 240 Orchard Lane, on Monday, April 28, 2025 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The tree selected for planting will be an Appalachian Redbud which will grow to an approximate height of 20' and be 20' in width. Mayor McColly inquired as to if a sound system for the program is needed, and indicated he will inquire with Mr. Ben Buckland or Mrs. Kate Niederkohr about the possibility of borrowing a speaker and microphone.

Mayor McColly presented merchandise received from the National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of the City's 37th year of being a Tree City USA community.

Mr. Niederkohr presented a list of ninety-seven (97) potential planting sites in the City and noted that the total funding needed for this project would be approximately \$31,525.00, including \$175.00 per tree and \$150.00 for Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery to prepare each site and plant the tree.

Mr. Niederkohr also presented a list of forty-seven (47) potential planting sites in the downtown area and indicated that the approximate cost to address these plantings would be \$30,550.00, including \$175.00 per tree and \$475.00 for Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery to prepare each site including the removal of an existing root ball and then to plant the tree.

Mr. Niederkohr shared a tree removal inventory between 2016 and 2024 and stated that one hundred ninety one (191) trees have been planted since 2016.

Mr. Niederkohr reported on a maple tree located on the north side of South Street at the intersection of South Eighth Street that has been dropping limbs over the past several years and is in need of removal. It was noted that this tree is located beneath power lines making the removal more difficult. An estimate of \$2,400.00 from Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery for the removal of this tree and stump grinding was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Lemire, to approve the removal of the maple tree located on the north side of South Street at the intersection of South Eighth Street by Bill Sower Tree Service & Nursery at a cost of \$2,400.00. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Niederkohr indicated that most of the tree work presented at the January 27, 2025 Tree Commission meeting, as quoted by Sowers Tree Service & Nursery, has been completed with the exception of the removal of the 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. This removal will be addressed on April 15, 2025 as a crane is needed and has been scheduled to assist with this removal.

Mr. Niederkohr stated that Parks Department employees will begin working today to remove two (2) 8’ to 12’ sections of sidewalk that were raised by the roots of maple trees located at 221 South Hazel Street and 225 South Hazel Street, as these trees were removed by Sowers Tree Service & Nursery since the January 27, 2025 Tree Commission meeting. Sowers Tree Service & Nursery will be grinding the stumps and roots following the removal of the sidewalks. The Parks Department will be grading these areas with stone and the Street Department will pour the new sidewalks in the future.

Mayor McColly indicated that he was contacted by Mrs. Erin Smith, Wyandot County Community Foundation, regarding the James W. Geary and Linda L. Geary Endowment Fund for Upper Sandusky Parks and Urban Forestry, and Mrs. Smith indicated that there is currently a balance of \$3,405.58 in this fund. Mayor McColly provided an application and noted that the deadline for the application is tomorrow. Tree Commission members discussed ideas for work and agreed to let the funds roll over for another year and consider projects next year.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Chari Alesch, Chairperson