

TREE COMMISSION

October 27, 2025

The October 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, John Walker, and Judi Lambrite. Jason Lemire and Nate Treadway were absent.

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

The minutes of the August 25, 2025 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

Mr. Niederkohr shared an estimate of \$10,400.00 received from Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery for the following street tree removals:

- \$2,700.00 for a silver maple located at 421 South 7th Street that has multiple dead limbs and the primary weight of the tree is hanging over the house;
- \$2,400.00 for a large silver maple located at 467 North Sandusky Avenue that was hit by a vehicle a few years ago and has been slowly dying since;
- \$3,300.00 for a maple located at the intersection of 303 West Johnson Street and South 8th Street that has rotted out in the center and is at risk of falling on the home and street. If the City can assist with traffic during the removal, the estimated cost would be cheaper.
- \$1,500.00 for a large maple located at 129 West Crawford Street that was damaged during a storm on October 19th.
- \$500.00 for the removal of various stumps located around the City.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery was caught up with all previous projects in the City. Mr. Niederkohr also shared that the City was still in its budget for the remaining tree projects set to be completed before the end of 2025.

Mr. Niederkohr shared an estimate of \$3,563.00 from North Branch Nursery, Inc. to plant 19 trees before the end of 2025. Twelve (12) of those trees are fully funded by donations. Eight (8) of the trees will be planted at Stepping Stones Park, with 4 of those being donations/memorials. Seven (7) trees will be planted throughout the downtown area, with 6 of those being donations. One (1) tree will be going in at the Reservoir, and one (1) other will be put in Harrison Smith Park. The remaining trees will replace street trees that have been removed, and those will be funded by donations from homeowners. Mr. Niederkohr also thanked Mr. Lemire's company for gifting the City \$3,000.00 for use in planting trees throughout the downtown.

Mr. Walker expressed concerns over Mr. Treadway's lack of attendance at Tree Commission meetings and requested that Mayor McColly appoint someone new. Mr. Walker asked the Commission if they had any recommendations for a replacement for Mr. Treadway, and Ms. Alesch said that her son-in-law may be interested in the position and that she would reach out to him. Mr. Walker requested that if anyone else had recommendations that they share them with Mayor McColly.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Lambrite, to approve the \$10,400.00 quote for removal of trees and the \$3,563.00 quote for the planting of new trees. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Tree Commission members agreed that there would not be a meeting held in November as there was no further business to be addressed before the end of the year.

Tree Commission members reviewed the meeting schedule for 2026 with meetings to be held on the following dates: January 26, March 23, April 27, June 22, August 24, and October 26. In the event that one of these meetings is cancelled a meeting will be held on November 23. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. unless otherwise notified.

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

Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant

Chari Alesch, Chairperson