

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
OCTOBER 29, 2020
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 6:07 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 S. Whittle Ave., Olney, Illinois, with Todd Bettis presiding.

AGENDA #2 “ROLL CALL” The following Tree Board members were present: Todd Bettis, Kelsie Sterchi, and Jan McKinney. Amanda Thomann, Natalie Shryock, and Chris Simpson were absent. A quorum was not present, so no formal action could be taken on any item. A majority of a quorum was present, so an open meeting could still take place.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2020” No action could be taken on this item.

AGENDA #4 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” No one from the public was present.

AGENDA #5 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: TREES TO BE PLANTED WITH AMEREN’S RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE GRANT FUNDS” Mr. Bettis provided the Board with a proposed Fall tree order. The trees would be purchased through Wolke Nursery as the City could purchase trees at wholesale cost plus delivery.

The proposed order included selections of Maples, Crabapples, and Oaks along with estimated delivery and mulch charges.

Mrs. McKinney asked if the proposed Oaks would produce acorns. Mr. Bettis indicated so.

Mr. Bettis then explained that the “#” next to the tree name was indicative of the size of its container.

None of the Board members present had any issues with the proposed order. Because a quorum was not present, Mrs. Sterchi said she would bring the order to the City Manager for approval.

Mrs. McKinney asked if the wholesaler offered any guarantees on the trees. Mr. Bettis replied that there would be no guarantee. Tree suppliers only offered guarantees if they were also the ones that would be planting the trees.

AGENDA #6 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: TREE PLANTING DATE(S)” Mrs. Sterchi asked how much manpower would be needed to get the trees planted in a morning. Mr. Bettis replied that realistically, he could plant all trees in a given morning. It was the desire of the Board to have interested parties assist and participate in the planting of the trees, but lack of volunteers would not be a problem.

At the last Tree Board meeting, a tentative tree planting date of November 7, 2020, was suggested. Mrs. Sterchi wondered if that date was too close to advertise. Mr. Bettis and Mrs. McKinney felt the timeframe would be acceptable. Due to COVID-19, large groups were not recommended anyhow. Additionally, the City and Mr. Bettis both had a decent social media following, so spreading the message should be fairly simple.

The attending Board members were in consensus that a tree planting date of November 7, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., beginning at Musgrove Park would be best. Again, because of a lack of a quorum, Mrs. Sterchi would bring the suggestion to the City Manager for approval.

AGENDA #7 “GENERAL DISCUSSION” Mrs. McKinney asked if it would be a good idea to place some identifying tree plaques on various trees in public spaces. Vandalism was often a problem. Mrs. Sterchi felt that flat-stones would be least-susceptible to vandalism, but wondered if they would hurt the tree. While possible, Mr. Bettis felt that could work or the tree’s roots may cause a problem.

AGENDA #8 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The Board would follow up about a future meeting date after the first of 2021.

AGENDA #9 “ADJOURN” Mr. Bettis ended the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk