



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JULY 28TH, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Merriam moved to adopt. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **All Things Trees**
Discussion regarding potential appointments to vacancies that currently exist on the Tree Board. The BOMC will also discuss the City's approved tree list and other matters associated with the City's Tree Ordinance. Discussion regarding the annual Christmas Tree will also resume.

Discussion started with the Tree Board. There was talk about replacing board members who have resigned and providing clear direction. Commissioner Merriam wanted to see all boards have more structure including action items, reports to the BOMC, etc. City Manager Bryant commented that the ordinance governing the Tree Board is clear but the Tree Board did not follow it. Commissioner Shortell noted that she is seeing more trees like crepe myrtles being planted in places where large canopy trees would be more appropriate. Mr. Bryant said that is normally under the purview of city staff to decide which trees go where. However, if a tree is on the approved tree list, it really can't be turned down. Ms. Merriam touched on memorial trees and an item needing attention. She would like some trees removed from the tree list. The group discussed consolidating some board with similar purposes. Mr. Bryant gave a status update on the tree inventory and said he would present an updated tree list to the BOMC. The discussion turned to the tree ordinance. Mayor Elmore

started by saying that a recent clear-cutting incident has the group revisiting the ordinance. The group talked about pros and cons of some details of the ordinance and ways that clear cutting could be prevented. Ms. Shortell suggested the tree ordinance list all the groups that work with trees, such as the Arboretum Board and garden clubs, for example. Mr. Bryant offered to present the BOMC with some optional changes to the ordinance for their consideration. Mr. Elmore then surveyed other board members about what they'd like to do with the city Christmas tree and there were various opinions and discussion will continue at future meetings.

Item #4 Public Comment

Patricia Calcagno spoke in support of keeping the Tree Board. She added she's one of the only remaining members. She was new to the board and would like to see it revived. Bill Hover commented on the lights of the 2020 Christmas tree. Lawrence Shaw pointed out the significance of the plaza containing the current Christmas tree as a gateway to the residential area.

Item #5 Adjournment

Commissioner Laratte moved to adjourn. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED AUGUST 11TH, 2021



Gina Hill, City Clerk