



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 25TH, 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 (via Zoom)
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 amend the agenda to include a discussion about overhead utilities at the Town Green site. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.
- Commissioner Shortell moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 All Things Trees

- Tree Board applications are being accepted until the end of August. Members are appointed at the Mayor's discretion.
- Discussion of staff recommendations to close loopholes in the 2018 Tree Ordinance.
- Discussion of staff recommendations for alterations to the approved tree list from the older tree ordinance and adding emphasis on the City's commitment to maintaining and improving canopy coverage.
- Discussion of City Christmas tree options.

The discussion started on the topic of tightening up the tree ordinance to eliminate some loopholes that allow residents to clear cut their lots. Assistant City Manager Hanebuth explained some of the changes that would accomplish this. There was discussion about what other cities do. The Board asked questions and shared concerns and potential strategies to protect the canopy. The group agrees to change the language in the ordinance to aspire to 50% canopy coverage, up from 40%. There was talk about language governing the

Tree Board and trees on the trees list. It was agreed that Commissioner Shortell will summarize the conversation in an email to the others. Discussion turned to the city Christmas tree. The consensus was to use the cedar tree in the empty lot adjacent to the current tree and the clock tower. The idea of combining the Tree Board and the Arboretum Board was also discussed.

Item #4 **Complete Streets Change Order**

Staff requests the BOMC authorize the city manager to expand the scope of work for Edwards Pittman Environmental Services to incorporate the traffic light at S. Avondale Road and Clarendon Avenue into the complete streets project at a cost of \$27,636.

Assistant City Manager Powell provided more detail about this item. She fielded questions from the BOMC. She explained how this problem could delay the project. Discussion covered grant funding, timing and more. This will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

NEW ITEM: Overhead utilities on the site of the town green. City Manager Bryant asked the BOMC if they wanted to bury the power lines during construction of the town green. He explained the pros and cons, including a price tag of \$500,000 to \$600,000. Assistant City Manager Powell went into more details and explained a map she made that illustrated the issue. Assistant City Manager Powell predicted the cost would be much higher. Commissioner Merriam believed that everyone would prefer underground utilities and she believed there were feasible ways to make that happen. Ms. Merriam wanted to see a master plan for what utilities would be above ground and underground in the future. In response to a question from Mayor Elmore, Ms. Powell said paying for this project would require taking money from other priority projects. Mr. Elmore was against the idea because of the cost. The other commissioners agreed.

Item #5 Public Comment

Tree Board member Patricia Calcagno supported combining with the Arboretum Board. Arboretum Board member Brad Jones also commented. Resident Johnny Garcia talked about the unintended consequences of the tree ordinance and the idea of incentivizing the planting of trees. He also suggested something be done to honor Stephany Cross for her years of service on the Tree Board.

Item #6 **Executive Session – Real Estate**

- Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to enter into executive session. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.
- Commissioner Laratte moved to exit executive session. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #7 Adjournment

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

APPROVED ON OCTOBER 28, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gina Hill, City Clerk