

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator
FROM: Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services
SUBJECT: Planning & Public Works Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, September 10, 2015



A meeting of the Planning and Public Works Committee of the Chesterfield City Council was held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 in Conference Room 101.

In attendance were: **Chair Connie Fults** (Ward IV), **Councilmember Bridget Nations** (Ward II) and **Councilmember Dan Hurt** (Ward III).

Also in attendance were: Councilmember Barry Flachsbert (Ward I); Councilmember Bruce DeGroot (Ward IV); Harry O'Rourke, Interim City Attorney; Planning Commission Chair Stanley Proctor; Planning Commission Member Guy Tilman; Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services; Jim Eckrich, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Mindy Mohrman, City Arborist/Urban Forester; and Kathy Juergens, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

A. Approval of the August 6, 2015 Committee Meeting Summary

Councilmember Nations made a motion to approve the Meeting Summary of August 6, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and passed by a voice vote of 3-0.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2015 Contracted Street Tree Removals - Update

STAFF REPORT

As previously requested by the Planning and Public Works Committee, Mr. Jim Eckrich, Public Works Director/City Engineer, presented an update on the status and costs incurred for tree removals in 2015 and stated the following:

Hazardous Trees

1. To date, the City has spent \$110,000 on the removal of 137 dead and/or hazardous trees.
2. The current budget is sufficient to continue removal of hazardous trees for the remainder of the year, however, it does not allow for removal of nuisance trees, i.e., Sweetgum trees and Oak trees infested with Horned Oak Gall, that have not reached a hazardous stage.

Nuisance Trees

1. No nuisance trees have been removed thus far in 2015.
2. Thirty-six sweetgum trees have been approved for removal subject to budgetary funding. Estimated cost of removal is \$28,800.
3. Twenty-one requests for the removal of trees infested with Horned Oak Gall have been denied. Estimated removal cost is \$16,800.
4. Since the year is roughly 2/3 complete, Staff is projecting an additional 20 more requests for nuisance tree removals at an additional cost of \$16,000.
5. Expected total expenditure for nuisance tree removals in 2015 is \$61,600.

In order to be able to continue the removal of hazardous trees as well as begin the removal of nuisance trees, Staff is recommending an additional \$70,000 be allocated from the General Fund – Fund Reserves for this purpose. If the Committee does not wish to recommend the use of the General Fund-Fund Reserves for this purpose, nuisance tree removals will be postponed until next year.

For clarification purposes, Mr. Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services stated that all requests for nuisance tree removals were generated by the residents and not Staff.

DISCUSSION

In response to Chair Fults' question, Mr. Eckrich confirmed that no nuisance trees have been removed this year, however, 36 have been approved for removal subject to available funding.

Councilmember Flachsbart stated that Chesterfield is a Tree City and the residents take trees very seriously. Since the City has under-budgeted for street tree removals, he felt the Committee should forward a recommendation to Council to allocate the necessary funds to complete appropriate tree removals for the remainder of the year.

The Committee further discussed the impending Emerald Ash Borer infestation and its impact on the City. As part of the Street Tree Replacement Program, the City has reduced the Ash population from 40% to 23% over the last five years by systematically addressing Ash trees as they decline. However, this infestation is a separate issue from nuisance trees. Staff will request additional funding for tree removals in next year's budget. Councilmember Flachsbart suggested allocating more money now to provide Staff with enough money to handle a reasonable number of Ash trees this year. If there is money left at the end of the year, it will roll over to next year and be utilized to complete tree removals at that time.

Councilmember Hurt made a motion to forward to City Council a recommendation to allocate \$100,000 from the General Fund – Fund Reserves to the Street Tree Removal Program for tree removal and replacement as determined by Staff. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nations and passed by a voice vote of 3-0.

There was additional discussion as to whether additional funding above \$100,000 should be allocated. Councilmember Flachsbart suggested that if Staff determines that a different amount would be more appropriate, that it notify Council and provide the justification. If that occurs, Council could offer an amendment at the City Council meeting.

[Please see the attached report prepared by Jim Eckrich, Public Works Director/City Engineer, for additional information on allocating additional funds to the Street Tree Removal Program.]

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule

Councilmember Hurt made a motion to approve the Planning & Public Works Committee Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nations and passed by a voice vote of 3-0.

IV. OTHER

Councilmember Hurt requested an update from Interim City Attorney, Harry O'Rourke, regarding his request to research whether the City's policy for snow removal reimbursement on private streets could also be applied to gated communities. Mr. O'Rourke stated that he would have a legal opinion ready for the next Committee meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.