

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Ryan Cairns called the meeting to order at 5:05PM. A quorum was present. Barr-Hamblin affirmed proper notice. Members Present: Ryan Cairns, Larry Hallet, Ron Fruit. Members Absent: Steve Downs, Mark Chambers. Others Present: City Forester Tess Barr-Hamblin.

HEARING FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHO RECEIVED HAZARD TREE CUT LETTERS – No citizens in attendance.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PRIVATE HAZARD TREES – Barr-Hamblin clarified information given on tree letters. They included hearing date, timeline, action allowed in ordinance and location of ordinance. Some grace is given if individuals can provide contract from tree cutter. Barr-Hamblin affirmed that certified letters were received, and some individuals called with questions. Only six property owners hadn't cut trees and several of those individuals called to express concerns about getting tree cutters lined up. Only two of the remaining trees pose hazards to neighbors or lines, others are dead ash that are contained within the individual's property. Barr-Hamblin will get in touch with property owners and assess further course of action.

CITY FORESTER UPDATE

1. Update on Tree Ordinance – Nothing new to report.
2. Tree Cutting Update – Utilities was unable to start this month due to meter installation. Will be starting in February, but it is a small number of trees.
3. Tree City USA Update – Application approved at local and state levels, waiting on Arbor Day Foundation approval.
4. Upcoming Classes and Trainings – UW online courses lined up for February on Sedges and Emerging Pests.
5. Spring Tree Ordering – Barr-Hamblin sourcing trees for boulevard and park trees from multiple vendors. Hallett suggested some other local vendors to check.
6. Plans for Arbor Day/Earth Day – Working with library for an Arbor Day/Earth Day story time with tree give-away. DNR can provide free seedlings. Will also need to coordinate a planting for Tree City Certification either as part of library event or with the School District. Cairns suggested doing a planting demonstration as part of tree give away.

REPORTS, REQUESTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

SET NEXT MEETING DATE – Meetings to be held on the third Wednesday of the month on a quarterly basis with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 5:00PM.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 5:32PM by Cairns, seconded by Fruit. Motion carried.