Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
August 20, 2013

Members Present:

Barb Grabner Kerns
Kira Propst
Rhonda Kraft
Phyllis Wilson
Alderman Burtle

Members Absent: Chad Lavin

Also Present: Doug Hughes

Dwight Bethel
Sally Bethel

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item addressed was the tree removal request by Sally Bethel. Mrs. Bethel lives at 701 Thompson St. and has two large trees on the west side of her property that she and her husband would like to remove. One tree is a large silver maple and the other, a large ash. They stated the maple tree has roots so large and extensive that they are cracking the foundation of their home. Doug Hughes stated that he has examined the tree and it appears to him that it is rotting from the inside out. From the street, the maple tree appears to be healthy. The ash tree looks in poor health and has boring holes from insects. Both trees are 2/3 city property and 1/3 home owner property. The Bethels are willing to pay for the removal of the trees and also willing to replant new trees.

Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend the Bethels be allowed to remove the trees at their expense. Board member Wilson seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0. It was recommended to the Bethels that when they are ready to replant, they choose a tree from the recommended tree list and that they plant at least one tree on city property. Their willingness to pay for the removal is a large consideration for the city. The ash tree is rapidly declining and its chances of surviving the Emerald Ash Borer are slim.

Second agenda item discussed was the potential replanting of Gingko trees in the sidewalk cutouts on the square. A motion was made by board member Kerns to recommend an estimate be obtained from Tullis Excavating for the curbing work involved in enlarging the sidewalk cutouts. Board member Kraft seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0. The replanting details were discussed and it was the unanimous feeling that because the original trees planted in 2010 died from chemical overdose, a second attempt should be made if at all possible.

Under other matters, progress with the city tree inventory was discussed. The inventory should be complete in several months and data collected will be forth coming to the aldermen. The need to update the recommended city tree list was mentioned and will be included on the September agenda.

Chairman Kraft made a motion to adjourn at 5:51 P.M., board member Wilson seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman