Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting (AMENDED)
May 28, 2014 Meeting

Members present:	**Also present:**
Barb Grabner Kerns	**Mayor Greg Brotherton**
Kira Propst	**Dan Ream**
Phyllis Wilson	**Virgil & Sue Babbs**
Alderman Larry Budd	**Leon Coffey Jr.**

Mayor Brotherton called the Tree Board Meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Mayor Brotherton introduced Alderman Larry Budd to the board members and informed them that he would now be the City's liaison replacing Alderman Shawn Burtle.

Mayor Brotherton stated that he wanted to thank Alderman Burtle for the years of service that he had provided as the City's liaison to the Tree Board.

The Mayor advised the board members that Rhonda Kraft had resigned her position on the Tree Board. He stated that he wanted to thank her for her hard work and dedication that resulted in rebirth of a Tree Board that had become defunct. He praised her for drive and determination and applauded her for the donations she had raised that had allowed the committee to move forward with several projects throughout the City.

The Mayor reminded committee members that as a result of Rhonda Kraft's resignation there was a vacancy on the Board that would need to be filled. The Mayor asked the Board members to provide him with the names of potential candidates for the position.

Board members discussed the Tree Removal Request submitted by Dan Ream who lives at 1021 W. Poplar Street. Board members reviewed pictures of the trees that Mr. Ream wants removed. The boulevard in which the trees are planted is relatively narrow and at least one of the trees has roots which are causing the sidewalk to buckle. Mayor Brotherton stated that there are currently trees in boulevards throughout the City that have grown too large and are now causing problems. While the City recognizes the problem it does not have the revenue required to remove all of the trees and must handle each situation on a case by case basis. Alderman Budd asked Mr. Ream if he would be willing to pay to have the trees removed. Mr. Ream stated that he could not afford to at this time. Alderman Budd then asked Mr. Ream if he would be willing to participate in the City's sidewalk repair program if the trees were removed and Mr. Ream stated that he would.

Mayor Brotherton asked the board members if they would like to refer this matter to the Street & Sewer Committee with a recommendation that the trees be removed as long as they would be replaced with trees more suitable for the location. Phyllis Wilson made the motion which was seconded by Barb Grabner Kerns. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Next board members discussed the tree removal request submitted by Virgil & Sue Babbs. The tree is located in the boulevard between 304 & 310 Richmond Avenue. The tree is a sweet gum maple and although it appears fairly healthy its roots are growing underneath the existing sidewalk and could cause damage in the relatively near future. Mrs. Babbs and a couple of other neighbors in attendance stated that the gumballs that drop from the tree are a nuisance and that they fill the street gutters before washing into the City storm sewers. Mayor Brotherton asked the Babbs if they would be approve of a replacement tree being planted if the existing tree would be removed and they stated that it would be acceptable. When asked if they would pay to have the tree removed Mrs. Babbs stated that they would need to get a quote to know what the expense would be before they could commit to paying the cost. Board members were generally reluctant to allow a healthy tree to be removed but stated that they could support the removal as long as a suitable replacement was planted. Phyllis Wilson made a motion to forward the matter to the Street & Sewer Committee with a recommendation that the tree be removed pending the identification of the necessary removal funding and the planting of a suitable replacement tree. The motion was seconded by Barb Grabner Kerns. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Next board members discussed the tree planting request submitted by Leon Coffey Jr.. Leon stated that he would like permission to plant a tree in the boulevard area located on the West Poplar side of his property at 304. N. Clay Street. He does not believe that there would be any trouble with utilities but he would call in a J.U.L.I.E. request before digging. The committee discussed the type of tree that would be planted. Kira Propst made a motion to recommend that the tree planting request be approved. Motion was seconded by Phyllis Wilson. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Phyllis Wilson asked if they needed to choose a new Tree Board Chairman since Rhonda Kraft who had served in that role had resigned. Phyllis proposed electing Barb Grabner Kerns as the Board Chairman. Barb was reluctant but stated that she would be willing to take the position temporarily until someone else could relieve her. Mayor Brotherton stated that they would need to choose a chairman but he suggested that they wait until he had a chance to appoint someone to the vacant position on the board. No action taken.

Barb Grabner Kerns stated that the trees planted last year across from the Driver's License Facility needed to be watered. The Mayor suggested that she contact the Fire Chief to see if he could assist with the watering.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kira Propst. Motion was seconded by Phyllis Wilson. Motion passed 4 - 0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Greg Brotherton

Mayor Greg Brotherton