

## **Tree Committee Meeting**

May 29, 2014

City Council Chambers

Members present: Harriet Gutknecht, JoAnne Hogan, Skip Jones, Patrick Waldrop, Rich Mueller; City Council member and Paul Fontenot. Jennifer Fidler; ex-officio and Gayle Fogarty took minutes.

Paul Fontenot called the meeting to order. The minutes from the meeting held on Thursday, May 29, 2014 were reviewed and approved 1<sup>st</sup> motion by Harriett Gutknecht and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patrick Waldrop and unanimously carried.

There was discussion of setting future Tree Committee meeting dates, the committee agreed on the following dates:

Thursday, August 14, 2014

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Thursday, February 12, 2015

The Committee discussed the date of Arbor Day for 2015 and decided on Saturday, February 28, 2015. There was general discussion among the group on the trees that would be given away at Arbor Day. The group agreed to order- Red Maple, Mockernut Hickory, Atlantic White Cedar, Big-flowered Silverbell, Longleaf Pine, White Oak and Pondcypress. Patrick Waldrop stated that he would ask Smith's Bakery for bags to be used to hold seedlings.

Harriett Gutknecht provided an update to Arbor Day 2014. She stated that it went well and added that the pre-printed labels were very helpful. She feels that more control of the program is needed to make the event more effective. Paul Fontenot commented that he thought more vendors would be a nice addition to the event. Jennifer added that 1,650 seedlings were ordered for 2014 Arbor Day.

The three (3) vacancies on the tree committee were discussed. Rich Mueller informed the group that he would mention that the committee needs applicants at the next City Council meeting on June 9, 2014. Paul Fontenot mentioned inviting Mayor Tim Kant to a future meeting, so that he could provide an update on the canopy trees in the fruit & nut district in town. Paul added that trees in residentially zoned areas are not protected, although trees on commercial and park properties are considered protected.

Patrick Waldrop informed the group that many of the tree trail signs are missing. JoAnne Hogan offered to work with Patrick to go around town and see which tree posts and wooden plaques need to be replaced, they will report back to the group with their findings.

Harriett Gutknecht stated that there are no printed trail brochures available for the public. The cost is estimated at \$6,000. Patrick Waldrop added that he will work on getting a grant to assist with the printing of these brochures.

There being no other business, the committee adjourned at 4 p.m.