

1 **MINUTES OF THE TREE BOARD MEETING** of the City Council of the City of Orange City,
2 Florida, held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly
3 Avenue, Orange City.

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5 **CALL TO ORDER**

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7 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Laputka and roll call was taken.

8
9 **ROLL CALL**

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11 **PRESENT:** Mayor Tom Laputka; Vice Mayor O. William (Bill) Crippen; Council Members Ron
12 Saylor, Michael Wright, Tom Abraham, Anthony J. Pupello, Gary A. Blair; City Manager Jamie
13 Croteau; City Clerk Deborah Renner.

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15 **1. Presentation: Status Update – Paul Johnson, Public Works Director**

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17 **a) Management of Trees**

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19 Paul Johnson, Public Works Director, came forward to discuss efforts over the past year towards tree
20 management in the City. He discussed the requirements for “Tree City USA” certification and stated
21 the City has met all its obligations. He detailed tree maintenance activities, noting that over the last
22 two years 103 trees were planted, over 66 survived and 37 were removed. The City has spent nearly
23 \$35,000 in its citywide contracted tree removal services. Mr. Johnson talked about the difficulties
24 quantifying costs because city staff is used for a large portion of the tree maintenance in the City.
25 However, he said he used work orders and an average wage for employees versus the man hours
26 used, to get a cost estimate. Mr. Johnson said that typically tree trimming is done in the beginning of
27 the year and goes into spring. Dying trees are identified on an as needed basis and scheduled for
28 removal. Staff received safety training in the use of chain saws. James Moltz is studying to become
29 the City's Arborist.

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31 **b) Tree City USA Status**

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33 The City has been continually certified for Tree City USA for the past ten consecutive years. He
34 noted the 2011 application for certification was included in the agenda packet. He provided a
35 detailed breakdown as follows \$4,500 for new trees; \$3,400 for maintenance; \$2,800 for trimming;
36 \$14,000 removal and \$3,360 for disposal which brings a total of \$28, 073. Tree City USA requires
37 that the City spend at least \$2 per capita to qualify and the City has spent \$2.65 per capita.

38
39 Mr. Johnson said the 2011 Tree City USA application is due December 31st. Staff is seeking
40 Council approval for the Mayor to sign the 2011 Tree City USA Certification application.

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42 **Council Member Blair moved that the City Council authorize the**
43 **Mayor to execute the 2011 Application Certification for Tree City**
44 **USA, second by Vice Mayor Crippen and passed by a unanimous**
45 **voice vote of 7/0.**

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47 **c) Status of Urban Forestry Grant**

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1 Ms. Croteau reminded Council that the City was awarded an Urban Forestry Grant to survey all of
2 the trees in the City. The City finally received and completed the paperwork for the federal
3 government. She said she anticipates the tree survey be completed sometime in 2012.

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5 **d) Discuss Current Tree Ordinance**

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7 Sgt. Greg Lariscy, Community Improvement, came forward. He noted ongoing problems with the
8 current tree ordinance. In particular he discussed issues arising on private property which resulted in
9 a dispute between neighbors. Sgt. Lariscy stressed that the ordinance is meant to deal with trees on
10 public property. He said staff is requesting that the Code be amended to take the City out of any
11 issues between private property owners. He also suggested having staff act as the Tree Board.

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13 Ms. Croteau asked for Council's support to make amendments to the tree ordinance. She noted
14 amendments being contemplated are for the tree board and maintenance of public trees. All other
15 requirements in the Code for landscaping, tree maintenance and protection will remain the same.

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17 **It was the consensus of Council to proceed with amendments to the tree**
18 **ordinance.**

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20 Vice Mayor Crippen noted a genetic study of several types of ancient archival tree seedling that can
21 be planted and studied. He said he would like to City to participate in such a study if it is possible.

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23 Mayor Laputka noted the annual cost of tree removal is \$35,000. He asked if that number fluctuates
24 from year to year. Mr. Johnson pointed out the amount quoted is for two years, the average annual
25 cost is \$15,000. Mayor Laputka said the tree survey is an opportunity to see what trees really need
26 to be removed. He suggested that the cost of tree removal may remain consistent or change
27 radically. Mr. Johnson agreed.

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29 **2. Adjourn**

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31 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

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33 Respectfully Submitted

Approved on

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Gloria Thomas, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

_____ Date

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