



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301
City Hall (775) 289-2430
Cityofelynv.gov

CITY TREE BOARD REGULAR MEETING

November 15, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Chairman Wolf called the regular meeting of the Ely City Tree Board to order at 8:00 A.M., led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for roll call.

Members present:

Chairman Bill Wolf
Member Gene Trask
Member Harry Rhea (joined via Zoom at 8:07 a.m.)
Member Tami Church

Members absent:

Vice Chairman Candice Campeau

City Officials and staff present in the building or via video conference:

Councilwoman Elliott
Councilwoman Van Camp
City Clerk Jennifer Lee
City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask
City Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below) and the following persons attended via video conference: Andi Kemmerer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE TREE BOARD.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 3A-1 Minutes.

Moved by: Member Trask Second by: Member Church Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - May 10, 2024

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Update from City Clerk Lee on the IRA23 24-010 grant, specifically the Tree Removal, Pruning and New Planting deliverables.

City Clerk Lee stated LG Tree Services was awarded the bid. Work started on August 12th and was completed August 30th for the tree removal portion. The pruning wasn't included because there was an undetermined amount of trees, and so that made it to where both of the bids we received approached that request differently. The Attorney advised that it would be best to postpone the pruning to be bid out with the survey, so that we had an identified number of trees, so whichever companies wanted to bid had the same.

Chairman Wolf stated I guess then we'll need to get together with Public Works Director Cracraft and identify what trees he wants, and then put a number in the bid request.

City Clerk Lee stated I will share that LG Tree services at one point requested a change order to do the pruning, and they had done a lot of work with their arborist to identify trees in the cemetery that needed it. They did this on their dime, and I just had to tell them, well, the pruning is going to be bid out when the software becomes available and we can't just add the pruning, because then other companies that were interested wouldn't have an opportunity. We do have that report in hand that I will share with Public Works Director Cracraft.

No action on this item.

2. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Update from City Clerk Lee on IRA23 24-10 grant tree survey deliverable, with possible Tree Board recommendation to include trees in City rights-of-ways and create a map from the survey for future use.

Andi Kemmerer with Nevada Division of Forestry stated we hope to have the software up and going in the next couple of weeks and the new Urban Community Forester will be in touch as that is something that is in her court.

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City Clerk Lee stated we would be bidding the survey with the pruning so next spring makes sense.

Chairman Wolf stated do we have a good map that shows the rights of way with trees in them. I thought B.J. had one or something.

City Clerk Lee stated when I've talked to B.J. about that, such a map doesn't exist. It's my understanding that's the purpose of the survey is to create that map.

Chairman Wolf stated when you are talking to B.J. tell him to do this map.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask asked who is paying B.J. to do this map?

City Clerk Lee stated we would need to get an estimate.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I will remind you that you still have just over \$3,000 in the Community Service Funding that you didn't spend on the landfill trees that you could use for this. Keep in mind going forward that we cannot use B.J. without a cost.

Member Church moved to request an estimate from Basin Engineering for a map that includes trees in the City rights-of-ways to include on the tree survey and for future use. Member Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Update from Public Works Director Cracraft on tree maintenance conducted to date during fiscal year 2025.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated the City crews are trimming trees in Bianche Park today to free up site of STOP signs. The Street Department has been trimming trees in various areas of the City to be able to get equipment such as the street sweeper and snow plows under them to clear roads efficiently. The crews continuously do needed pruning and trimming in the parks and cemetery when needed.

Chairman Wolf stated once we get the survey and inventory program up and going that will be something to input in which trees get pruned and trimmed.

No action on this item.

4. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Update from Chairman Wolf on current grant funding for arborist training and discussion regarding optimal time of year for Public Works employee(s) to complete it.

Chairman Wolf stated there's a grant out there for training for City crews and we need to understand what's going to be the best time of year to try and get some training planned

for them? We'll work with our partners and see about coming up with some training dates. Would March be a decent time for you guys? We might be able to get some training further south that they could go to?

Public Works Director Cracraft stated let me know the dates and we can plan for it. If they are going to be leaving town for training, I would only be able to send one, maybe two of our people.

5. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Discussion regarding planting ideas for Arbor Day 2025, including Cemetery replanting, with possible date selection.

Chairman Wolf stated we always try to have a project in our pocket come spring that way we can have some kind of Arbor Day event. When we were down at the cemetery, I did notice that there's a spot at the cemetery kind of on the west end of it where there's kind of a weedy area. I noticed in that one area there's a lot of Japanese headstones or something like that. It's really neat.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated for years we've been trying to clean that up. We put a little sprinkler system in it. We've just never been able to get back in with topsoil and start planting, and the goal is still to do that.

Chairman Wolf stated I was going to propose since it seems to be mainly Japanese headstones to plant some cherry trees and some Japanese Maples in that area. We certainly don't have to vote on this now. If anyone has any other ideas this winter, we can talk about those further at the next meeting. The School District is looking at doing a really big planting this spring. They want to do a project with the Middle School, David E. Norman, and the Lund and Baker schools as they have a grant to plant trees. May is not that great of a time for them, because of the end of school and all that stuff. I guess it comes down to do we want to try and piggyback on what they're going to do or do we want to go ahead and set our own arbor Day?

Member Rhea stated I would suggest we go ahead and plan our own Arbor Day but keep open the option to piggyback with the school, as their plans get more firmed up and offer them whatever assistance we can. If the two happen to coincide we can do both at that time.

Member Rhea moved to set May 3, 2025, as Arbor Day in the City of Ely. Member Church seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Wolf stated part of the grant was that the trees that were taken out of the cemetery were going to be replaced.

City Clerk Lee stated yes, and so if the replanting of the eleven trees were done by volunteers that just leaves more grant funds available for more pruning. That's really at Mike's discretion and the Boards.

Chairman Wolf stated I think the VFW was hoping a couple of trees would be replaced in their area at the cemetery that were taken out and they said they would like to volunteer and help replant.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated if you look in there, I think more trees need to come out as there are still some dead. I don't have a problem putting more in there. We will do our best to have the older section ready to go before Arbor Day and we can plant trees and grass at the same time. Do we have to wait for funds to be released to purchase those trees?

City Clerk Lee stated no, it is just a reimbursement request. If it is going to be volunteer/City staff, it can go forward at any time.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated before we do any pruning, we would have to purchase the trees to see how much of the grant was left.

Chairman Wolf stated we should be able to get trees at a pretty reasonable price.

Member Church stated the High School Seniors are going to have a tree sale this spring so I can get a wide variety of trees depending on what you would like.

City Clerk Lee stated the other thing to consider is the grant expires March 31, 2027, so that leaves a little budget time depending on when Mike wanted to release the bid invitation for pruning. If that was to happen after July 1st next year then he could always budget a little more for pruning in his own budget, because we have no match in this. Anything that we contribute is our choice.

Chairman Wolf stated we could work with the High School group on what kind of trees we would like to get and have an item on the next agenda to select those for replacement.

No action on this item.

6. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Discussion regarding Spring Tree Sale including possible date selection.

Member Rhea moved to table the discussion regarding Spring Tree Sale including possible date selection. Member Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Discussion regarding ideas for future Tree Board projects and events, in addition to Arbor Day and the Spring Tree Sale.

No comments or action on this item.

8. Chairman Wolf – Discussion/For Possible Action – Update from Chairman Wolf on tree pests of interest seen in the City of Ely, with possible recommended education measures.

Chairman Wolf stated I did a tree planting with a group up in Jackpot this fall, and they are getting nailed with Tussock moth. The one picture you can kind of see where the trees are turning brown, and it really doesn't give the extent of how bad it is. They are getting nailed up there on that one development down kind of behind Cactus Peach, and where the heck did a Tussock moth come from in Jackpot for crying out loud. If they start moving down Hwy 93 with cars or something like that, I just wanted to bring this to the attention of the Board. If we start seeing this kind of defoliation, then it's something we're going to need to act on. If those kinds of infestations get out of control, then they can kill the tree and from what I understand the thing with this is you can address it early in the larval state. They have a kind of foamy mass you can see on the trees before they come out and start really eating the tree. You can actually deal with the infestation just by spraying them with water and a surfactant. It's one of those kinds of things where if we can keep our eyes open and see it early, it will be super easy to deal with. In reading the material they'll defoliate deciduous trees, but the evergreen seems to take it the hardest.



5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Rhea stated I need to report I did not get the Tree City USA Application in this year. I didn't get the information from the City. I dropped the ball while moving and my health problems and I need somebody to help me get the application in for 2025, which is now time to do.

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Andi Kemmerer with Nevada Division of Forestry stated there has only been one submission so you have plenty of time to get that in.

Chairman Wolf stated I will get with you Harry and make sure to get those applications submitted.

The next Regular Tree Board Meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE CITY TREE BOARD.

Member Trask moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Tree Board at **8:34 a.m.** Member Church seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



CHAIRMAN



ATTEST

