

The Maquoketa Tree Board met on August 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall with Muhlhausen, Edwards, Montoya, Wagner, Short and Ellenz from City Hall and one person via zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Muhlhausen. The Agenda was approved on a motion by Montoya and Edwards. The Minutes were approved as sent on a motion by Edwards and Wagner. There was one person attending by Zoom and she indicated that she wanted to follow what the Tree Board was going to do about the removal of the Ash Trees that are dying.

Wagner gave the budget report and said the budget had been increased to 20,000 for removal, 9,000 for grants, 1,500 for trees, and 10,000 for materials and supplies and there had been no income or expenditures for the month of July, which is the first month of the new fiscal year. It will be really important to make City aware of needs for ash tree removal, to plant park trees to replace ash trees (which isn't covered by grants), and ash tree treatment for 2022/2023 budget year. The current budget only allows for a small number of ash tree removals and the tree board will again be behind in removals as it has been told to board members that the above figures are still 2020/21 not 2021/22.

As part of the City Tree discussion, Edwards handed out a list of the tree complaints that she had looked at or was aware of so far during 2021 and what the disposition was of those complaints. Copy was also sent to City Hall. Also, the Green Space was discussed with the tree board ready to compose a letter to be sent to City Council recommending that the green space remain a green space or park with the objective of planting trees on the site. But Ellenz indicated there was about a foot of soil and the rest of the fill was lime and he wasn't sure any tree would grow in that environment. After discussion, it was decided to request more information from Emily Swihart of Trees Forever about tree tolerance around lime and for her recommendations.

The list for planting from the 2020 grant was discussed. This grant was for private trees and 9 trees for the YMCA for a total of 48 trees. This list has gone to City Hall for bids. We are requesting the trees be delivered or ready for pickup in October. Ellenz will discuss with Smith whether the trees will be delivered or picked up by property owners. Edwards will prepare a letter informing property owners of required steps to receiving their tree. If any trees are available, Mike Hayward's application wasn't found and he did want 2 trees.

The tree removal list was discussed. There are three sections, Section 1 is the list from last year, Section 2 has 6 additional trees for removal, stump alone removal and tree trimming with Section 3 as Alternates with another 5 trees for removal. The awards will depend on budget constraints and costs from the bids. Public Works will mark the trees by the 13th, with bids due on September 8 and to go to Council on the 20th of September and tree removal and trimming done by November 24th. The timeline and bid list was approved on a motion Short and Montoya.

The 2021 Trees Forever/Black Hills grant was discussed at length with the due date of November 1st. Montoya will write and submit the grant. The applications will go out in City newsletter, social media, and newspaper ad with applications open from September 1st thru September 30th. 1 tree will be available for each property with Platt Street private trees being the focus. A letter and application will go to all who lost trees in the Platt Street reconstruction. And due to the derecho and declining ash trees, it is felt we may have to limit the number we can accept with Platt Street first and then application dated as they are received.

Ash tree treatment will be discussed later in year as both parks will be reviewed as to effectiveness of the treatment later in the year or early next year when leaves are out to see how the treatment has worked.

There being no further business,the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Elaine Edwards