

## TREE COMMISSION

January 10, 2011

The January 10, 2011 Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in Council Chambers by Sara Lou Brown, Chairman. Tree Commission members present were Sara Lou Brown, Jim Geary, Don Spiegel, and John Walker. Judi Lambrite was absent.

Others present included: Scott Washburn, Mayor; Randy Moore, Parks Manager; Stephanie Miller, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Forestry; Linda Geary; Betsy Corfman; Gerald Pfeiffer; Randy Payne, American Electric Power (AEP); Rick Bosse, AEP; Shelly Clark, AEP; Keith Chapman, Asplundh; Chanda Neely, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the October 18, 2010 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the December 20, 2010 special Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

Mr. Rick Bosse, AEP, addressed the Tree Commission concerning the trees planned for trimmings and removals throughout the City that are located too close to electric lines. Mr. Bosse explained that the primary reason for the tree work is for safety and the secondary reason is to prevent power outages. It was noted that 2001 was the last time AEP performed tree work within the City and due to budget constraints it has taken ten years to address the needed work. AEP will probably address tree work within the City again in 2015. Mr. Bosse indicated that seventy-four (74) trees located within the City right-of-ways are slated for trimming and ninety-eight (98) trees located within the City right-of-ways are slated for removal. The Public Utilities Corporation of Ohio (PUCO) requires a minimum clearance of ten feet (10') from electric lines. Mr. Bosse noted that all stumps of trees removed that are located within the City right-of-ways will be ground along with the stumps of trees located beneath three (3) phase electric lines on private property.

Ms. Betsy Corfman expressed her concerns for the residents losing their shade trees. Ms. Corfman thanked the AEP representatives for coming and explaining the tree work. Ms. Corfman also inquired as to if AEP can replace the trees slated for removal. Mr. Bosse indicated that AEP does not offer tree replacement.

Ms. Shelly Clark, AEP Communications, explained to the members of the Tree Commission the customer notification process for tree work on their property.

Mrs. Stephanie Miller, ODNR, Division of Forestry, addressed the Tree Commission and noted that last week she along with Mr. Randy Moore, Parks Manager, looked at the trees slated for tree work by AEP and with the exception of one, all trees slated for removal were justifiable. Mrs. Miller stated that this is a great opportunity for the City to have problem trees removed. Mrs. Miller recommended that every other pear and maple located along State Route 67, near Guardian, and also along Route 330 East be removed.

A motion was made by Mr. Spiegel, seconded by Mr. Geary, to approve Mr. Randy Moore and Mrs. Stephanie Miller to work with AEP on the tree trimming/removal project. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr. Rick Bosse suggested the City consider requiring tree trimmers to be ISA certified in order to obtain tree trimming permits.

Tree Commission members agreed to review the City's existing Rules and Regulations relating to the Tree City USA designation at a future meeting.

It was noted that the start date for the AEP tree work within the City right-of-ways will be January 24, 2011 or January 31, 2011.

AEP representatives thanked the Tree Commission for the opportunity to explain their planned tree work within the City.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

---

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

---

Sara Lou Brown, Chairman