

Meeting Minutes
Tree Committee
May 18, 2021

In attendance:

Dennis Winterringer, Chairman Tree Committee
Bob Seaborn, Member Tree Committee
Pam Richardson, Member Tree Committee
Frederic Kahler, Member Tree Committee
Joe Richey, Code Enforcement Officer

The committee adopted without revision the summary of the April 20, 2021, meeting minutes.

Mr. Winterringer stated that Al Ingle, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board, requested that tree removal applications associated with new building plans not be transmitted to the Board, possibly because the Board does not have expertise in this area. That however is contrary to procedures in the Land Development Code. To assist the Board in making a decision on the tree application, the Code Enforcement Officer could provide the Board with a recommendation as to whether or not to approve it.

Contrary to the Land Development Code the City Manager issued a permit for the removal of trees on an undeveloped lot where no building had been proposed or presented to the Planning and Development Board. Thinning of trees on undeveloped lots is allowed with a permit. However, clearing of protected trees on a lot without a proposed building is not allowed by the Land Development Code.

On May 6, 2021, Mr. Winterringer met with Mr. Richey to review tree permits issued under the revised Tree Ordinance effective May 16, 2019, to review collected data on:

- number of tree permits issued,
- number of trees by species and size permitted to be removed and
- money collected for the Reforestation Fund.

Permits issued from October 2019, through January 2021, could not be found.

Hurricane season is approaching. City permission is required for a property owner to remove or substantially alter a patriarch tree that is damaged during a declared hurricane emergency.