

MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE KENDRICK CITY COUNCIL  
TREE ORDINANCE WORKSHOP  
FEBRUARY 10, 2016

At 6:01 PM Mayor Mark Lapinskas opened the tree ordinance workshop. Present were council members Matt Kathanimane, Dale Lisher, Sarah Miles, and Paul Rush, maintenance supervisor Steve Howerton, and city clerk Barb Wilson. Citizens present were Dean King and Rose Norris.

The city council held a workshop to determine the course of action to remedy the inconsistencies in tree ordinance. In the current Ordinance 683 in Section 15, General Maintenance, it says: cost of general maintenance, periodical pruning, fertilizing, disease treatment or removal of city inventoried trees shall be the responsibility of the City of Kendrick. In other parts of the ordinance it states that the citizens are responsible. The city does not currently have money in the budget for pruning trees.

Sarah said the City of Moscow does not pay for maintenance and that citizens are responsible for all maintenance, pruning and removal of trees anywhere in the vicinity of their property.

Matt said when he worked in Boise that the city took care of the trees in the right-of-way.

Steve called several surrounding cities and it varies as to what other cities provide. Our contract with Idaho Transportation Department states that the City of Kendrick is responsible for trees in the highway right-of-way.

Lewiston: the property owner is responsible for trees in the park strip.

Kooskia: no tree ordinance, lots of fir trees in the park strip, city maintains trees

Moscow: property owner is responsible

Genessee: mayor and council have authority, tree maintenance property owner responsibility

Kamiah: city takes care of trees in right-of-way

Deary: property owner is responsible, city takes care of trees planted in downtown area

Troy: Mayor and council have authority, but issue has not come up, not many trees

The tree inventory was created as an assessment tool to identify age of trees, condition, tree type.

Sarah said it could be a huge financial burden on the city to prune the trees. Where would we get the funds to pay for it?

Dale said there are 46 black locusts on the inventoried tree list, but Steve said several of those have been removed.

Dale presented a savings spreadsheet that shows how much the city will save starting next year with a lowered amount being paid to a new public works person.

Barb said that we might be able to increase the amount of revenue received by the RV Park in next year's budget and use that money to pay for the trees, however, the RV Park money could change.

Matt feels that street clearance and safety issues regarding pruning should be a city expense, but that regular maintenance, fertilizing, pruning, etc. should be paid by the property owner. Dead trees removal could be a shared expense between the city and the property owner.

Mark said that the city needs to prioritize which trees need to be pruned and get bids for pruning in the spring. The council is in agreement that we need to identify which trees are the highest priority, including the trees that were brought to the attention of the council, by a citizen, to see if they are some of the highest priority to be pruned. The city should get bids from several companies.

There is an issue with the fact that Ordinance 683 was not signed by the mayor. The summary that was published in the paper was signed by the mayor and attorney Will Herrington. Barb will check with Will and see if the original ordinance is valid since it was not signed. It was approved by the city council at a regular council meeting on November 14, 2000.

The city cannot afford to bear all the costs of maintaining the trees in the city right-of-way. The city may decide to set an annual budget for pruning. This may be a shared cost with the property owner. The council thinks that general maintenance of trees, including fertilizing, pruning, and watering should be the responsibility of the property owner but possible removal of dead trees might be a city expense, or a shared expense.

After we find out if the ordinance was properly authorized, the council will decide how to proceed. If we decide to amend the ordinance to clarify who is responsible, we will hold a public hearing.

At 7:18 PM Dale made a motion with Sarah seconding to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

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Mark Lapinskas, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Barb Wilson, Clerk/Treasurer