

**CITY OF ROCKPORT
TREE & LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MINUTES
5:00 p.m., Monday, February 11, 2013
Rockport City Hall, 622 East Market Street**

On this the 11th day of February, 2013, the Tree & Landscape Committee of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, held a Called Meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall, and notice of meeting giving time, date and subject having been posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

TREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT

Alex Johnson, Chairman
Ron Helmke, Vice-Chairman
Bob Shoemaker
Ginger Easton-Smith
Carroll (Turf) Overturf
Diana Severino-Saxon

ABSENT

Patrick Rios (EX.)

GUESTS PRESENT

Five (5)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Henry, Director Building and Development
Angie West, Assistant to Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

II. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Deliberate and act to approve the January 14, 2013 Tree & Landscape Committee Meeting Minutes as presented.

Chairman Johnson called for consideration of the minutes from the meeting held on January 14, 2013. Vice-Chairman Helmke moved to approve the minutes as presented. Member Shoemaker seconded the motion. All voted in favor - motion carried unanimously.

B. TABLED: January 14, 2013. Deliberate and act on a request from DK Builders, representing Hamilton Aransas, LLC, to remove two trees from a strip center parking area located at 1406 Highway 35 North and in front of Spanky's Liquor.

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to take Item "B" from the table for open discussion. Member Easton-Smith moved to take Item "B" from the table. Member Severino-Saxon seconded the motion. All voted in favor - motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Johnson stated; the request from DK Builders, representing Hamilton Aransas, LLC, to remove two trees from a strip center parking area located at 1406 Highway 35 North and in front of Spanky's Liquor has been now been withdrawn in writing from DK Builders. After hiring an expert to assess the condition of the trees, the owner has chosen to take the advice from the expert to trim and maintain the trees.

After some additional discussion, Chairman Johnson called for a motion.

Motion: Member Shoemaker moved to accept the written request to withdraw the previous request to remove two trees from the Spanky's Liquor parking area. Member Overturf seconded the motion. All voted in favor - motion carried unanimously.

C. Hear and deliberate presentation of Aransas County's tree regulations.

Mr. Henry stated; in your packet is a copy of the Aransas County tree protective regulations. I wanted to pass this out to you all to review and come back at a later date to discuss any information we may glean from it that may be beneficial to our ordinance. I did a quick review and just want to let you know it pertains to only oak trees over six inches on one acre of land or larger. It also addresses trees that can be removed for four or five reasons. Most of them deal with disease or causing structural problems. They really do not address anything about development. I questioned the Aransas County Health Director who administers the regulations. He said that falls under a newer clause, other trees that may be necessary to be removed are to be reviewed by the county tree committee. He indicated to me that he reviewed the plans and signed off on them. Either way, it is a simple ordinance. After some additional discussion, Mr. Henry stated; this item goes along with Item "D".

D. Review and deliberate updating City's tree and landscaping regulation, including Code of Ordinances Sections 106-15 through 106-35.

Mr. Henry stated; Mr. Chairman the emphasis of this agenda item is that there have been several concerns come to the surface recently due to the city's implementation of our Tree & Landscape regulations. Two of the most outstanding questions that we heard were Article 2 of the regulations addresses

tree removal while Article 3 addresses the installation and use of landscaping and is there a conflict between these two articles. Both articles are supposed to work hand in hand to accomplish a common goal of preservation and/or beautification of a development site. There does exist some vagueness in how this is accomplished between the two. As I stated we have had this regulation in place for eight years. The landscaping regulations were merged with the tree protective regulation which the city already had and the landscape regulations were borrowed from Port Aransas with some modifications. The third question is should we allow mitigation of non-oak trees to planted on properties.

After some additional discussion, Chairman Johnson stated; Ron and I have been members for many years and I believe twice over the past years we have looked at this before and made suggestions to City Council to tweak the verbiage. It is something that should be done periodically.

After some additional discussion in regards to the ongoing construction at the corner of Henderson and Business 35, the committee moved to the next item.

E. Deliberate and act on setting next meeting date.

Mr. Henry stated; setting the date for the next meeting will be postponed until after the City Council meeting tomorrow night.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:32 p.m.

Prepared By:



Angie West, Assistant to Director

Approved By:



Alex Johnson, Chairman