

The City of Maquoketa Tree Board met on September 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers with Muhlhausen, Montoya, Short, Edwards and Ketelsen from City Offices in attendance. There was no audience. The Agenda was approved on a motion by Short and Montoya and August minutes were approved on a motion by Montoya and Edwards.

A short discussion was held on the Finance report as there was no changes from prior month. The Vickie Dunkel tree removal was discussed as this tree is half her and half City owned and previous City manager agreed to pay half of removal costs.

The tree removal list was discussed and it was decided to add a priority list for trees to be removed first as felt they are hazard trees, which are the dead trees in parks and Western Avenue tree. It was decided to have the removal time limit to be completed by March 1, 2023 which was felt to give the winning bidder sufficient time to complete.

It was also decided to not make a decision on ash tree treatment until spring. We were told by last time's winning bidder that we had missed the time to treat in 2022 and we would be wasting our money. He also related that all of the ash trees will eventually die and we are just buying some time for the trees in Little Bear and Grove Street parks. Therefore, upon the suggestion from Edwards, we will delay until spring and contact DNR and Trees Forever to obtain their opinion before making our decision.

It was decided to forego a private tree program for the 2023 Trees Forever Grant which is due November 1st. This is because the timing of getting ads out, private tree applications back and approved would not give enough time for writing the grant as the addresses have to be included in the grant application. Instead it was decided on a motion by Edwards and Short to include Boulevards for the 2023 year grant which will include Main Street and the rest of West Platt.

It was noted that that the two tree complaints, 404 S Niagara and 402 School Street are both on the removal list and the person submitting the complaint will be notified of this.

A discussion was held on the 2 Grants we are currently finishing up. We will begin with the Trees Forever Grant trees which will be planted on October 13 and the DNR grant trees will be planted on October 19th. Muhlhausen is coordinating the school help and has obtained some of the refreshments thru donations from her employer. Both the Trees Forever and DNR representatives will be in attendance during the plantings. And Jan will coordinate the rest of the refreshments as we will need water, possibly pop, coffee and doughnuts. The schedule will be worked on and sent to Board Members and other parties as necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Elaine Edwards