

**WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2024**

5:45 p.m. Review and Discussion of Status of Tree Preservation Ordinance

Mayor Mouton called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Council Members present in-person in the community room at City Hall offices: Iverson, MacDonald, Parkhill, and Plechash. Also present: City Manager Jeff Dahl, and City Forester Bennett Myhran.

Mr. Dahl introduced this item and Mr. Myhran.

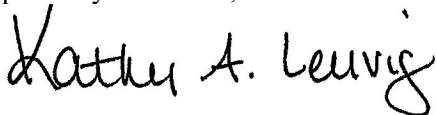
Mr. Myhran indicated that in late 2022, the Council adopted changes to Chapters 519, 710, and 936 pertaining to Tree Preservation. Also, after the first few months of implementation, several additional changes were identified, drafted, and codified in early 2023. The intent of these various amendments and their respective City Code can be found in Attachment A. During that same period, the Council formally appointed its first City Forester, who has managed the implementation of these changes as they relate to: plan review, mitigation calculation, collection, tracking, and release, code interpretation, tree pest/pathogen control and quarantine, and tree hazard abatement.

The public's response to these procedural changes has been generally positive since ordinance amendments were established, though difficult to gauge without any proactive outreach. The most vocal proponents of these efforts tend to be engaged community members and residents of properties adjacent to land development activity. Developers are also generally appreciative of our intentions, as many of them rely on the City's tree canopy for certain project aesthetics. There is also a subset of developers who have been vocally opposed to these changes due to the added complexity in site planning and cost of mitigation requirements. Developers as a whole are becoming more familiar with these regulations and better able to navigate them proactively. It is expected that as long as the City maintains consistent application of these standards, implementation will continue to streamline.

Mr. Myhran added that while the combined effects of the TPO, as currently written, have been positive, there continues to be room for improvement and refinement as staff explores opportunities to make these regulations more effective, fairer, and perhaps more palatable to those that need to navigate them on a regular basis. As such, staff would like to discuss several ordinance updates which can be found in Attachment C. The proposed language is shown in red, with additional context provided in green text boxes. Staff will be walking through the proposed updates at the meeting.

Other action items that staff would like to discuss for increased tree canopy resilience include the development of Urban Forest Management Plan and expansion of forestry resources for residents. The Council discussed the results of the TPO over the past year as well as the recommended tweaks. There was consensus that the overall results were positive in protecting the canopy but felt that amendments were needed based on Mr. Myhran's recommendations. They directed staff to come back in the near future with those recommended updates. In addition, they asked for a little more clarity and for staff to research flexibility in what both TPO funds as well as interest on both those funds and escrow funds can be used for in terms of city priorities.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Leervig, City Clerk