

MINUTES

CITY OF BEAUFORT

TREE BOARD

Thursday, July 28, 2011 3:15 pm

City Hall Conference Room, First Floor– 1911 Boundary Street

Beaufort, South Carolina

In accordance with South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, Section 30-480(d), as amended, local media were duly notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

Members present

Barb Farrior, Chairman

Jim Arnett

Staff present

Eliza Hill, Planning Department

Members absent

Darryl Snyder

William Waskiewicz

Derrick Wells

Chairman Farrior called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

There was a brief discussion of the resolution of the matter of pine trees on the Von Harten property.

REVIEW AND COMPILE SCOUTING INFORMATION ABOUT PILOT PROJECTS FOR UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES

Board members reviewed copies of maps of the pilot projects that are completed, with the exception of Dixon Village. Ms. Hill said she would count the houses there. She has counted houses and trees in The Point; all but two trees are “excellent.”

Ms. Hill has requested a smaller version of a map encompassing the other three projects for eventual submission to council. The board members reviewed a second map of Royal Oaks / Mossy Oaks. Ms. Hill said she had indicated single-phase lines, and it appears that the Duncan Drive / Waverly Way area is a potential undergrounding loop. The Harvey Road / Waddell Road is, too, as is Ivy Lane and another street. Ms. Hill said there are potentially other areas, too, though much is three-phase. She suggested that each of the board members could divvy up the areas and count the houses and trees in the other areas.

Mr. Arnett said there’s a street in that area called Live Oak Circle with “a lot of nice trees on it.” After looking at a map, it was determined that the area encompassed by Live Oak Circle and Lagare Street is a potential area with single- and two-phase lines which could be considered

after examining the trees. There was discussion of getting together to drive and look at the areas together. It was determined that Chairman Farrior and Ms. Hill would meet August 1 at 10:00 am at City Hall to go look at these areas.

Ms. Hill pointed out a letter from Mayor Keyserling in regard to the transmission routes. She said the letter was very positive. The cable lines going to the transmission poles were never part of the plan. When Mr. Dadson asked the Tree Board to find 10 pilot projects, he said nothing about cable lines. "It was meant to save trees," Ms. Hill said. The mayor says in the e-mail, Ms. Hill shared, that "he wants the poles, lines – all of it – to go away."

Ms. Hill said the board had been given a copy of Port Royal's tree protection/removal/pruning requirements which are different than the City of Beaufort's.

There are three certified arborists on the Tree Board now, Chairman Farrior said, and she feels that a review and revision could be accomplished for council in the next few months, in spite of its length. The Planning Commission, Tree Board and Libby Anderson have all had a hand in it. Ms. Anderson will deliver the ordinance to city council, Ms. Hill said. Chairman Farrior said the Tree Board is advisory, but they "have a board with more clout and understanding from city council" than they did in the past.

GENERATE INITIAL DRAFT OF LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL IN REGARD TO FINDINGS

Chairman Farrior said more information needs to be compiled before this can be completed. There was discussion as to what the letter should consist of.

Mr. Arnett said there needs to be awareness that prices quoted today will change by the time this happens. Ms. Hill said she expects the process will get underway fairly soon.

REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE IN REGARD TO UNDERGROUNDING UTILITIES AND CRAVEN STREET

Ms. Hill said she heard from David Smith at Century Link who told her that the per linear foot cost would be between Charter's (\$12.90) and Hargray's (\$30) costs. All involved parties need to be brought back to the table, Ms. Hill said, for a discussion before the Tree Board sends the prices to council.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Hill said based on attendance, she feels it's best to ask Mr. Wells to resign and bring on another member. Ms. Hill knows of someone who is interested, and she suggested a master gardener could be good.

The next meeting of the Tree Board will be August 25, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.