

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2016**

ACTION MINUTES – These minutes are prepared to depict action taken for agenda items presented to the Tree Commission.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Coakley called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Kaljian led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TREE COMMISSION PRESENT: Coakley, Kaljian, Latham, Menefee; Spevak absent.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza, Public Works Administrative Clerk II Nelson.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Menefee, seconded by Latham to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Spevak absent.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2016: Motion by Menefee, seconded by Kaljian to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Spevak absent.

PUBLIC FORUM: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON ANY ITEM OF PUBLIC INTEREST THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY; INCLUDES AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO A FIVE (5) MINUTE PRESENTATION. DETAILED GUIDELINES ARE POSTED ON THE COUNCIL CHAMBER INFORMATIONAL TABLE. No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza informed the Commission that the City parks and right-of-way sprinklers have or will be turned off during this time of year, which will continue to save water. Cardoza explained that after the holidays, the City will be trimming the downtown trees and approximately 35 others in different areas in town with the die back disease that can be saved and the trees that can't be saved will be removed and replaced with Chinese Pistache, as discussed at the last meeting. Latham asked for clarification pertaining to die back disease and if Chinese Pistache or others are affected by this disease. Cardoza explained about the disease and that at this time the Chinese Pistache doesn't have any known diseases and does very well in our area.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin reported Public Works will be going back to council regarding the Landscape Ordinance which reflects the state requirements for front yard landscape. He explained that it mainly pertains to conservation. There was further discussion on how the City is doing overall with water conversation.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

KALJIAN: Kaljian stated he has noticed a lot of full grown dead trees around town and it's just sad to see. Is there any kind of enforcement that we could do about this problem? Fachin explained that those types of situations would be for Code Enforcement to handle. Public Works really doesn't handle those issues. The only enforcement that Public Works handles is for businesses that have conditions of approval, regarding landscape.

LATHAM: Latham had a citizen approach her regarding an overgrown tree threatening her home and asking if the City or a program that would assist her with removing it. Fachin explained the City is not allowed to go onto private property but there are some exceptions. The City will remove dead branches or fallen trees if they're blocking a driveway or City right-of-way for safety. Cardoza suggested having the resident call the Parks office so they can look at it and give her some advice. Latham commented on being a new tree commissioner and asked where she can look for information regarding state, city, and being a Tree City besides just listening here at the meeting. Cardoza said there are a few tree websites under the Parks and Recreation Division that has lists of trees and trimming trees as well.

MENEFEE: Menefee had a couple items to discuss. There is a group homeowners on Adams Avenue who would like to remove a majority of the old trees and replace them with sycamore trees, as it was historically. Is there a way or process if they wanted to do that? Cardoza has concerns with sycamores due to their size and being aggressive causing problems with sidewalks, water and sewer lines. There was further discussion regarding permits, different trees, and maintenance. Menefee asked if possible to put a video on pruning trees onto the City channel and website. Cardoza will find a video and have it put on our website.

SPEVAK: Absent.

COAKLEY: Coakley added that she saw years ago on the Tree Doctor a presentation on tree pruning. She is glad that the ordinance is staying out of residents back yards. Coakley welcomed Dr. Latham on joining the Tree Commission. She then announced that this will be her last tree commission meeting, because her term is over at the end of this year and due to family obligations she can't be able to commit to attending the meeting anymore. She has really enjoyed being on the commission and, important also, thanked Colleen, Tom and John who have been here a long time. It's also been nice working with City staff and has seen staff development that has been gratifying. "This is my thank you and goodbye speech."

Prior to meeting being adjourned. Fachin informed Kaljian that it's time to reapply for your position and that applications were online or at the Finance Department Coakley also commented how they were on the same cycle.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:48 p.m.

APPROVED:

, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Patricia Nelson, Secretary