



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the Tree Commission of the City of Stoughton, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting as indicated on the date, time and location given below.

Meeting of the:

Date /Time:

Location:

TREE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STOUGHTON

Monday, May 13th, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

In Person Meeting Will be Held At:

The Stoughton Public Works Facility, 2439 County Rd A, Stoughton, WI

Members:

Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman, Mike Point, Denise Duranczyk, Kay Rashka, Ed Meachen
City Forester John Kempainen, Director Brett Hebert, and Mayor Tim Swadley

Item #	CALL TO ORDER
1	Communications
2	Approve April 8 th , 2024 Meeting Minutes
Item #	OLD BUSINESS
3	Spring Plant Sale Review and Discussion
4	FFA Arboretum
5	Sewer Lateral/Tree Removal Discussion
6	ARPA Funds Discussion
Item #	NEW BUSINESS
7	Elect New Chairperson
8	Tree Committee Secretary volunteer

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: AN EXPANDED MEETING MAY CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8th, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mike Point, Dean Tangeman & Denise Duranczyk

Absent & Excused: Ed Meachen, Kay Rashka & Kevin Short

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen

Guest:

Call to order: Tangeman called to order @ 6:05 PM

- **Communications:**

Kemppainen brought up the possibility of developing a policy on public tree removal for private sewer laterals.

- **Approval of minutes from March 11th, 2024 Meeting:**

Motion by Duranczyk seconded by Point. Carried 3-0

- **OLD BUSINESS: Spring Plant Sale for 2024:**

The date agreed on for the sale will be April 27th from 9:00am to 12:00pm and will need 4 to 5 volunteers for the day. *Kemppainen* will arrive at 8:00am to set up.

- **ARPA Fund Discussion:**

Kemppainen submitted the request for \$25,000 for tree maintenance funding. He also attended Committee of the Whole meeting in March to formally request funding. No response has been received yet.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2024 Lumber Sale:**

There is not enough lumber on hand to hold an event this year – hoping for a sale in 2025.

Future Agenda Items:

Sewer lateral/Tree Removals
New Chair Election in May 2024

Motion by Duranczyk, seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried 3-0

Respectfully submitted 4/9/24, Jen Wagner - Staff

The Stoughton Tree Commission and the Forestry Division of Public Works are requesting American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$25,000 to help meet our goals of maintaining and expanding the tree canopy cover and improving the health of our urban forest. These funds would be spent during 2025 and potentially 2026 to supplement tree maintenance costs. This request furthers the city's goal to become a more sustainable community. Trees help to lessen urban heat island effect in communities during warmer months as well as improve air quality and mitigate stormwater runoff.

Background:

The Forestry Division has strived to maintain a tree pruning cycle of 5 years to meet industry standards and expectations. Maintaining the existing tree canopy cover is the most important aspect of an urban forestry program. City staff work in conjunction with contractors to trim more than 1000 trees every year. As the city continues to grow and expand, the number of trees that need to be maintained annually increases accordingly. Additionally, as individual trees continue to grow, the cost to maintain each of them increases.

Since 2018, our pruning cycle goal has been achieved, but our ability to meet this goal is quickly becoming difficult. Rising costs to hire contractors to assist with our more challenging trees is leading to fewer trees being pruned annually. For example, in 2019, the average pruning cost per tree through our contractor was approximately \$91. In 2023 the city spent an average of \$101 per large tree through our contract prices. An additional \$25,000 for tree pruning would allow us to prune almost 250 more trees than we would otherwise would have been able to during this timeframe.

The Forestry Division will also be submitting grant requests to the State of Wisconsin for a portion of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds to supplement tree maintenance and additional tree planting. This grant is only applicable to a small area of the city based on disadvantaged communities, so we can only apply for a small amount of funding. We feel that if grant funding through both the ARPA and the IRA can be secured, no additional general operating funds will need to be requested for at least 2-3 more years.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. I am available and willing to answer any additional questions you may have.

John Kempainen

City Forester, Stoughton WI

CITY OF STOUGHTON, 207 S FORREST ST, STOUGHTON, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL	
Appropriate \$25,000 in ARPA funds for Tree Commission	
Committee Action:	Committee of the Whole recommended approval ____ on 06/06/2024 Finance Committee recommended approval ____ on 06/11/2024
Fiscal Impact:	Increased expenditures of \$25,000 in 2025/2026
File Number:	R-xxx-2024
Date:	06/25/2024

The City of Stoughton, Wisconsin, Common Council does proclaim as follows:

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City of Stoughton received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$1,372,623 during calendar years 2021 and 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Stoughton Committee of the Whole met on June 6, 2024 to discuss various ARPA requests; and,

WHEREAS, the Stoughton Tree Commission and Public Works jointly requested \$25,000 in ARPA funds to help meet the goals of maintaining and expanding the tree canopy cover as well as improving the health of the City’s urban forest; and,

WHEREAS, the City Forester has indicated the expenditures will occur in calendar year 2025 and potentially 2026; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Committee recommended providing the \$25,000 from the \$250,000 originally earmarked by the Committee of the Whole for sustainability items at their April 6, 2023 meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance/Comptroller has indicated that no budget amendment is required for calendar year 2024 but should be appropriated in 2024 for usage in the 2025 budget;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that \$25,000 in ARPA funds be appropriated from the sustainability earmarked funds to be spent in 2025; and,

