

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
CITY OF SEWARD, NEBRASKA  
TREE BOARD**

The regular meeting of the Tree Board of the City of Seward, Nebraska was held on **Tuesday, October 13th**, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford Street.

Present: Thomas Suhr, Charles Matzke & Kregg Einspahr.

Absent: Kenneth Schmieding, Larry Goldsmith.

Others in attendance: Dave Hansen, Alyssa Hendrix, Mike Oneby, Brent Peterson.

Notice of meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in the following places: City Hall, Civic Center and Seward Public Library. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were while convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

**NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW**

**1. TREES ON CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY (FOR REMOVAL):**

- a. E. Roberts St. and Grand Ave. (2 Maple)
- b. 1st St. and Moffitt St. (Ash)
- c. 1st St. and Moffitt St. across from Ash (Ash)
- d. 45 Jackson Ave. (Hackberry)
- e. 508 S. 1st St. (1 Ash 1 Maple)
- f. 3rd St. and Ash St. (Crab)
- g. 130 3rd St. (Ash)
- h. 4th St. and Jackson Ave. (Ash)
- i. 8th St. and Roberts St. (Ash)
- j. 1260 north 7th St. (2 Ash)
- k. 945 S. 7th St. and South (Pine)
- l. 8th Street & Hwy 15 (Pine)
- m. 3rd St. and Main St. (Elm)

Moved by Matzke, seconded by Suhr, to approve removal of trees.

Aye: Matzke, Suhr.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Einspahr.

Absent: Schmieding, Goldsmith. Motion Carried.

## 2. DISCUSSION OF ADDING MORE SPECIES OF TREES TO THE CITY RELEAF PROGRAM

-Current Approved Species of Trees:

- Chanticleer Flowering Pear
- Autumn Blaze Flowering Pear
- Prairiefire Flowering Crab
- American Linden
- Triumph Elm
- Autumn Blaze
- Swamp White Oak
- Sawtooth Oak
- Northern Red Oak
- Red Sunset Maple
- Miyabe Maple

On January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020, 11 trees were added to the approved species of trees to the City Releaf Program. The discussion of adding additional trees to the Releaf Program were discussed. Below are highlights around the discussion of adding more tree species to the Releaf Program:

- Mike Oneby had noted that the city has many new tree projects coming in the very near future and would like to get new species approved before the projects begin.
- Lists of approved street trees from surrounding communities were distributed to those present at the meeting.
- Individuals present at the meeting were told to come up with lists of trees that they recommend and do not recommend to be added to the City's Releaf Program. These tree species would then be discussed at the next meeting which will take place November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## 3. DISCUSSION OF ASH TREE BORER

The board continued the discussion of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) from the Special Tree Board Meeting that was held September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Below are highlights of the discussion around the EAB.

- Brent Peterson had noted that the survey of City property to see how many ash trees are within the city of Seward had not yet been completed. The results of the survey will be presented at the next meeting.
- Brent Peterson also noted that there had been an article in the Seward County Independent regarding the Emerald Ash Borer.
- There is now a ban on cutting firewood from the burn pile to take home for personal use as this can increase the spread of the EAB. You are still able to take your Ash Tree wood and other wood to the burn pile to burn, there is just no removal from the City's burn pile.
- Charles Matzke recommended bringing in someone from Lincoln or a surrounding community to learn about their plans in slowing and stopping the spread of the EAB. Thomas Suhr will be looking into other communities plans of action.
- The older areas of Seward, which includes the downtown area have the highest populations of Ash trees in the community.

- Mike Oneby mentioned that ash trees are able to be treated for EAB. The treatment would need to be applied by a certified arborist every 2 years and the cost is determined per inch in diameter.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-Suggestions/Recommendations from Board

5. CONSENT ITEMS –

- a. Minutes (Jan. 14, 2020 & Sept. 8, 2020)

Moved by Matzke, seconded by Suhr, to approve minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 meetings.

Aye: Matzke & Suhr.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Einspahr.

Absent: Schmieding, Goldsmith. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully,

Thomas Suhr, Chairman