

1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ORANGE CITY TREE BOARD**, held on Tuesday,
2 December 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue, Orange City.

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4 **CALL TO ORDER**

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6 The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Strickland and roll call was taken.

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8 **ROLL CALL**

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10 **PRESENT:** Mayor Harley Strickland; Vice Mayor O. William Crippen; Council Members Jeff
11 Allebach, Tom Abraham, Anthony J. Pupello, Gary A. Blair, Tom Laputka; City Attorney William
12 Reischmann; City Manager Jamie Croteau; City Clerk Deborah Renner

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14 Mayor Strickland stated that this is the “official” meeting of the Tree Board and is being held as one of
15 the requirements for “Tree City USA” certification.

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17 **1. Presentation: Status Update – Paul Johnson, Public Works Director**

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19 Paul Johnson, Public Works Director, came forward to provide a status update. He discussed the
20 requirements for “Tree City USA” certification and stated the City has met all its obligations. Mr.
21 Johnson said the City has spent a total of \$43,587 for the care and maintenance of trees. He provided
22 a detailed breakdown as follows: \$26,000 for new trees; \$4,409 for the watering of trees (including
23 man hours and labor); \$1,685 for tree trimming; \$6,940 on contracted tree removal; and \$4,978 for
24 disposal of tree debris from the trimming. Mr. Johnson advised the City plans to apply for an urban
25 forestry grant next year to help fund this effort. Public Work employee Allen Branton is currently
26 working on becoming a certified arborist.

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28 Vice Mayor Crippen asked whether the City has list of “specimen trees.” Mr. Johnson responded that
29 Alison Stettner, Development Services Director would address that question.

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31 **2. Comprehensive Plan Provisions – Alison Stettner, Development Services Director**

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33 Alison Stettner, Development Services Director came forward and said the Comprehensive Plan defers
34 to the Land Development Code (LDC) with regard to tree protection. Chapter 11 of the LDC is the
35 “tree ordinance” and was crafted to reduce tree loss resulting from development projects and to protect
36 trees on platted and undeveloped land within the City. It provides a list of “specimen trees.” A permit
37 is required for the removal, relocation or replacement of trees 6’ dbh or above. The cost for the permit
38 is \$20 for the first tree and \$3 for each additional tree. Exemptions include single-family dwellings,
39 some agricultural properties, and nurseries. Ms. Stettner stated the LDC also provides protection for
40 trees on new construction projects. She explained that as part of the development review process a
41 tree survey outlining a plan for the trees on the property must be provided. Some trees may be
42 removed and replanted to facilitate the construction. The developer must provide 15% of the
43 development’s square footage to be utilized as a tree preservation area and new trees will be planted in
44 buffer areas.

45
46 Mayor Strickland commented that is an example of what occurred recently with the RaceTrac property

1 that recently annexed into the City. Ms. Stettner agreed. She said the developer will provide a tree
2 protection area in the rear of the property that will add additional buffer for the area. In addition, live
3 oaks and magnolias have been planted which gives the property a very lush look. Ms. Stettner said the
4 property owner must maintain the trees or he will be subject to code enforcement.

5
6 Mayor Strickland asked whether these provisions apply to sub-divisions. Ms. Stettner responded in
7 the affirmative. She said sub-divisions are required to put trees in buffer areas within the development
8 as part of the site plan. In addition, some sub-divisions plant trees as part of the landscaping on
9 individual lots. Once the lots are designated for single-family homes, the trees can be removed unless
10 they are part of Planned Unit Development and part of a stipulated condition or HOA covenant.

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12 Council Member Laputka recalled there was a problem with Blue Springs Villas development. He
13 said all the trees were removed without prior authorization. The City fined the developer, but he had
14 no difficulty in paying the fine. He felt that construction should have been stopped until the matter
15 was resolved. Council Member Laputka said that he would like to prevent this type of situation from
16 happening again. Ms. Stettner advised a stop work order and denial of building permits are code
17 enforcement mechanisms that the City could use.

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19 In response to a question from Council Member Pupello, Ms. Stettner said the Code allows for code
20 enforcement in perpetuity. The City has a number of code enforcement options it could use. The City
21 can place a lien on the property. For example, if a commercial development, built 10 ago put in trees
22 and a parking lot and today they are in decline, the City has the ability to go back to the owner and
23 make sure the trees are brought into compliance.

24
25 Council Member Allebach noted that two trees planted as part of the construction of the Texas
26 Roadhouse and Wachovia are now dead. He suggested Code Enforcement look into the matter.

27
28 Mayor Strickland urged staff to pursue a forestry grant.

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30 **3. Adjourn**

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32 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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34 Respectfully Submitted

Approved on

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37 Gloria Thomas, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

February 08, 2011

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