



## Tree Committee Minutes

January 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Council Hearing Room, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

Tree Committee Members Present: Member Alan Bate, Member Henry Bonifas, Member Emily Rosten, Vice Chair Ben Parker, Chair Elizabeth Lucas (*one vacant seat*)

Tree Committee Members Absent: Member Daniel Canella

City Staff Present: Acting City Arborist Anthony Whipple, Public Works Director Matt Horn, Deputy City Attorney Sadie Symens, Deputy City Clerk Megan Wilbanks

---

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the San Luis Obispo Tree Committee was called to order on January 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, by Chair Lucas.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

### 3. CONSENT

3.a CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 23, 2023 TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Motion By** Vice Chair Parker

**Second By** Member Rosten

To approve the Tree Committee Minutes of October 23, 2023.

Ayes (5): Member Bate, Member Bonifas, Member Rosten, Vice Chair Parker, and Chair Lucas (*one vacant seat*)

Absent (1): Member Canella

CARRIED (5 to 0)

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

##### 4.a 163 SERRANO HEIGHTS DRIVE - APPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINES DUE TO IMPROPER PRUNING

Deputy City Attorney Sadie Symens provided an overview of the scope of the appeal and the appeal process, pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 1.24.130.

Public Works Director Matt Horn and City Arborist Anthony Whipple presented the staff report and responded to Committee inquiries.

The Appellant, John Rourke, testified in support of the appeal and responded to questions raised by the Committee.

Chair Lucas opened Public Comment

Public Comment:

None

*--End of Public Comment--*

Chair Lucas closed Public Comment

**Motion By** Member Bonifas

**Second By** Chair Lucas

The Tree Committee reviewed an appeal for improper pruning of three (3) Coastal Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees located at 163 Serrano Heights Drive and determined that the appellant violated the City's Tree Regulations, thus upholding the administrative citation and fine.

Per San Luis Obispo Municipal Code 1.24.130, the Tree Committee shall provide a written decision to the Appellant within 30 days of the decision. As such, a subsequent meeting of the Tree Committee will be convened on a date to be determined to review and approve the written decision, which will be prepared by the City Attorney's Office. The draft decision will be published with the agenda for the Special Meeting.

Ayes (5): Member Bate, Member Bonifas, Member Rosten, Vice Chair Parker, and Chair Lucas (*one vacant seat*)

Absent (1): Member Canella

CARRIED (5 to 0)

**5. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION**

**5.a ARBORIST REPORT**

Acting City Arborist Anthony Whipple provided an update of upcoming projects and activities in the Tree Division:

- Tentatively scheduled for the February 26, 2024 Tree Committee meeting, is review of an Appeal for a property located at 1120 Marsh Street.
- Staffing in the Tree Division is still in progress.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Tree Committee is scheduled for February 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

---

APPROVED BY TREE COMMITTEE: XX/XX/2024