

WORK SESSION
MEETING MINUTES
City Hall
March 22, 2023

Mayor Hunt called the meeting to order 5:30 P.M.

Council Present: Cindy Burlingame, Carol MacInnes.

Staff Present: Bill Potter, Lea Moyer, and Cathy Goldsmith.

Community Present: Jackie Brown, Bill MacInnes, Melanie Sperry, Julie Knox, Alex Logan, Jen Homer, Kaylee Griffith, Marsha Holly, Kathleen Wolf, & Glenda Homer.

The purpose of this work session was to discuss the Downtown Beautification Project. Concerns regarding the trees were brought up during the March 14th regular City Council Meeting. Several options were discussed regarding the placement of the trees. An option that was discussed was placing the trees in planter pots. Some of the concerns regarding the trees that were discussed, was damage to power lines, sidewalks, buildings, and impeding traffic. Boe with Urban Forester, discussed possible ways to avoid damage and impeding traffic. Ways to avoid these concerns would be utilizing the maintenance plan, choosing the right tree, placement of the tree, and root barriers within the ground. Councilor MacInnes raised a question on the gravel underneath the pavers and how would it affect the growth of the plant? Boe discussed that they would amend the soil adding native soil to replace the crushed rock to promote better tree growth. Melanie Sperry discussed how the trees behind the elementary school are no longer growing in the native soil. Boe discussed that many things factor into tree growth such as the type of tree, how it was planted, the tree nursery where it comes from, root issues all play a vital role in the tree growth.

After a lengthy discussion many topics were brought up during this time; how much water will the trees utilize and who is responsible for the maintenance? It was discussed the trees would take approximately 2-5 gallons weekly and the responsibility would be on the City of Fossil for maintenance/watering. It was discussed that root barriers would help prevent damage to sidewalks & structures. Boe explained that using a root barrier would be like planting in pots, but trees would be underground which would help maintain moisture. Another concern was, did the grant that funded the sidewalk have stipulations? If a sidewalk would need to be replaced would the city be able to reapply for the grant? Some business owners were still not in favor of the trees due to the concerns with root damage/height. Councilor MacInnes stated that the city could place the trees in planter pots to prevent any damage to any buildings. Council voted on the information that presented that every business owner approved. Mayor Hunt stated that the grant was written two years ago and received 17 signatures for approval of the grant that day, however; she did not obtain all the business signatures. This grant was in support of gateway signs, downtown beautification which included trees & flower pots. The conclusion of the meeting was that the City of Fossil would place trees but not in front of businesses to where businesses did not want them.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

April 11th, 2023

Approved



Terri Hunt, Mayor



Lea Moyer, City Recorder

