

TREE COMMISSION

April 27, 2026

The April 27, 2026 Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. in Council Chambers by Chari Alesch, Chairperson. Tree Commission members present were Chari Alesch, Vincent Donnersbach, Judi Lambrite, Jason Lemire, and John Walker.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor; and Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant.

The minutes of the March 23, 2026 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

Mr. Korte reminded members that the 2026 Arbor Day Program will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026, at Stepping Stones Park. An Autumn Blaze Maple will be planted, and Jeremiah Logsdon of the Wyandot County Soil and Water Conservation District will give his customary presentation.

He also noted that the Northwest Ohio Tree City USA & Tree Campus Awards Program will be held on May 13, 2026, in Maumee. Members registered to attend should watch their email for additional details.

Mr. Taylor reported receiving numerous calls from concerned residents about trees potentially falling due to recent storms. He had Bill Sowers of Bill Sowers Tree Service inspect the reported issues, with the following findings:

- A tree at 390 W. Walker, in front of Union School, is severely rotted and should be removed immediately due to safety concerns. Quoted cost: \$2,800.
- A tree at the northwest corner of Walker and Hazel is also showing significant rot and should be removed. Quoted cost: \$3,600.
- A tree at 419 W. Johnson has a large cracking knot and decay in the upper portion, posing a hazard to the nearby home. It is also damaging the sidewalk, which will need replacement. Quoted cost: \$3,200.

Ms. Alesch asked how soon trees could be replanted after removal. Mr. Taylor stated that utility locations would be marked and replanting could occur shortly afterward as long as there were no issues. Mr. Donnersbach asked whether the trees near Union School could be removed after school is out; however, Mr. Taylor advised that immediate removal was recommended for safety reasons. He added that the work could be completed on a weekend to avoid disrupting school operations. Mr. Walker and Mr. Lemire agreed with proceeding as soon as possible.

Mr. Taylor also noted that a section of sidewalk near 415 W. Johnson requires replacement, as it was originally constructed with a curve around a previous tree. He explained that such curved sidewalks are no longer ADA-compliant and emphasized the importance of proactive tree maintenance.

Since the last meeting, the following work has been completed:

- Stump removal on N. Warpole Street
- Hazard trimming at 210 W. Walker
- Removal of a Chinese elm at 300 N. Warpole
- Removal of two trees at 211 and 221 Bigelow Street

The total cost for this work was \$9,650.

Mr. Taylor reported that of the \$60,000 annual budget, \$31,100 remains. While he recommended proceeding with the newly quoted work, he expressed concern that additional

storm damage could quickly deplete the remaining funds. Commission members agreed that hazardous trees should be addressed promptly.

He further emphasized that maintaining ADA-compliant sidewalks is essential, noting that noncompliance can hinder both safety and eligibility for state and federal funding.

Mr. Taylor also reported that a tree at 415 W. Johnson is healthy, but its stump is damaging the surrounding sidewalk area. Bill Sowers recommended removal. City crews can complete the work except for stump grinding, which was quoted at \$525.

Mayor McColly asked why the City could not remove the tree in front of Union School in-house. Mr. Taylor explained that the City's current equipment cannot reach the height required. He is exploring the purchase of a larger bucket truck to reduce reliance on contractors, as current demands may exceed the budget. Mr. Donnersbach asked whether staff capacity would allow for more in-house work; Mr. Taylor responded that crews are already heavily engaged in storm cleanup, and the work must be completed regardless.

The total cost of the proposed tree work is \$10,125. Mr. Donnersbach moved to approve the expenditure, seconded by Mr. Lemire.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant

Chari Alesch, Chairperson