

TOWN OF WELAKA

TREE BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM
Honorable Willie Washington, Jr. Town Council Room
400 4th Avenue, Welaka, FL 32193

(This meeting will be broadcasted, for view only, on the Town of Welaka Facebook page)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL** by Assistant Town Clerk, Ellen Dickason
 - Aaron Levine - present
 - Janis Brown - present
 - Pamela Washington - present
 - Patti Nielsen - present
 - Kenneth Pagano - present
 - Town Attorney, Patrick Kennedy - absent
4. **APPROVAL OF CURRENT AGENDA** - Motion to approve 2/22/24 Agenda by JB and seconded by KP. Passed 5/0.
5. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** January 25, 2024, Tree Board Meeting Minutes
Corrections – No corrections. KP made a motion to approve the 1/25/24 Meeting Minutes and PW seconded. Passed 5/0.
6. **PRESENTATIONS** - None.
7. **CORRESPONDENCES** - None.
8. **REQUEST TO SPEAK** – Lenore Toole – concerned about how people clean yards and leave for town pick up. Large debris is left by the public. 710 or 708 Front St has demolished, has been picked up but not by the town. Can the ordinance state what a resident can put out for Waste Pro, not the town? She called Waste Pro for restrictions. There is a state law that anyone is hired or paid to trim trees, they are required to take care of all debris. Sticks/branches/etc., no longer than 5ft and tied and no larger than 4 inches in diameter. Leaves/twigs must be bagged up. KP asked what the town’s responsibilities are for picking up. LT said the Town is not responsible for any, but they have done courtesy pickups in the past. She said KP should talk to John Stuart about anything more. LT was advised by Zoning to come to talk to the Tree Board. AL said they can investigate adding debris pick up into the ordinance. AL will gather more information on the law and see how it can be incorporated into the ordinance. Put this in the next workshop. KP asked if this should be added to the agenda. AL said just add to workshop agenda. PW said it is more the individual that is doing this, not the tree companies. Tree companies seem to be doing what they are supposed to do. KP says the ordinance addresses tree companies that can do business with the town. They must be licensed and should know the regulations. LT doesn’t think residents know what can and cannot be picked up and by whom. Maybe the newsletter should state guidelines for residents. AL maybe it should be reemphasized because people have taken advantage of the town in the past.

Maybe if it is too big to pick up the resident can put out for free firewood.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Members Open for Discussion – KP has item for discussion. It goes for public education. There is an ordinance and a law. We are not following as a Town. We haven't heard from the building department. We need to educate from inhouse. PW – it isn't simple. Need to review the application then talk to the building department, might be able to do insert to application. Then the building official needs to be able to pass it on to the appropriate department then to the Tree Board. KP – not building dept responsibility to review the request. PW – Building Department would let Tree Board know there is an application for review. KP – volunteered to be the contact for getting this rolling. PW – checklist would be needed. AL – we can create a checklist if needed.

NO other discussions at this time.

b. Planting donated trees – KP – resident, Philip Purcell wants to donate 100 trees. Oak trees to be planted on 2nd Ave. 50' apart, that's 1 mile of trees, from Mill St to Palmetto St. The Town Council said they need to look at this closely due to the grant money for 2nd Ave. When? What's the plan? According to the Mayor we might have an answer to this by the earliest March 7th. The longer we wait the possibility of losing money. Find out what Mr. Purcell wants to do and find out what exactly the grant entails. This is an offer that should be taken seriously and the person offering the money should have an answer to his request. It is specifically for 2nd Ave, live oaks. AL – what makes the most sense is to see if there is another road, he is interested in planting due to the major work that will be coming to 2nd Ave. If he only wants for 2nd Ave, then we need to wait. KP – then we should discuss with the donor what his expectations are and see if he is flexible. Perhaps we should request from the Council that they request the Tree Board to follow up on this. JB – doesn't see the road with curbs and sidewalks. Believes it will be just a simple paved road. KP – address drainage, pedestrian traffic, higher speed JB – just doesn't see it being a major road. KP – stated it is an evacuation route. What do we want to do? AL – maybe we can mark the trees and mark them for the road construction and coordinate down the road. KP – Town has stated they would maintain the trees once planted. This is all discussion not official. If this is something, we want to do then we need the Council to direct us to follow through. Timeframe is short for planting. Should we recommend to Council to give Tree Board the go ahead to follow through? PW – maybe we should hold off and do our fact finding. KP – how do we do fact finding without a directive to do so? AL – check with the donor to see if he will do another road or wait for grant to come through. KP – proposes to bring it to Council and move forward if possible. PW – let's see if we can get some trees now and some later. KP – will bring before Council in our report. All agree.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Public Workshop review of ORD 2015-1 WELAKA TREE ORDINANCE

11. PUBLIC COMMENT – Lenore Toole – 2nd Ave was discussed. It is looking very derelict from how it used to look. They were talking about having pull outs along the way for benches to be able to sit and enjoy the area. At one time we discussed having people donate a bench to sit and enjoy the environment. KP – this brings up things you can do with small roads. There is a lot of room to place benches. Drainage isn't a big issue on 2nd Ave. JB – the only part is the fire lane which is always washed out. KP – Town did state they have been adding limestone. AL – lime rock will wash out can be corrected with broad base dips. KP – pictures he saw had walkways, planted area and drainage area and benches and nice road to travel. AL – more walking traffic.

12. ADJOURN – 6:37 PM.