

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

**ACTION MINUTES – These minutes are prepared to depict
action taken for agenda items presented to the
Tree Commission.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Latham called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Rubio led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TREE COMMISSION PRESENT: Creighton, Latham, Menefee, Rubio; Spevak absent.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin, Public Works Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Heim, Public Works Administrative Clerk II Nelson.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Creighton, seconded by Rubio to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Spevak absent.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2018: Motion by Latham, seconded by Creighton to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Spevak absent.

PUBLIC FORUM: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON ANY ITEM OF PUBLIC INTEREST THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY; INCLUDES AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. DETAILED GUIDELINES ARE POSTED ON THE COUNCIL CHAMBER INFORMATIONAL TABLE. No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

PARKS & RECREATIONS REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Heim introduced himself and presented his background experience. Heim brought up an opportunity to participate in an available Grant Program with Cal Fire. Heim was approached recently by Greg Deon from Cal Fire regarding an annual Grant Program that could be beneficial for the City. Heim attended a workshop on the Grant Program with Mike O'Brien. Heim proceeded to outline the basic principles of the Program as follows: City is a good candidate for the Program based on the estimated 75% of residents who are disadvantaged low income status. The Grant would require the City to subsidize 25%, while Cal Fire would maintain the 75% balance. The cost of the Grant can be expensive, as the estimated Grant could be

\$150,000. Heim recognizes that the City cannot proceed to apply for the Grant this year, but should possibly be considered in the next few years. After initial presentation, an extensive discussion amongst the Commissioners followed regarding the grant funding, qualifications and logistics of the program. Heim and Fachin responded to the questions and concerns. More research on the program is needed to reply to all questions raised. Heim will continue to have discussions with Greg Deon and pursue this Grant as a potential option for the City in the future.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin welcomed Joe Heim to the Commissioners. Fachin also commented that the City is at full staff and almost full in the Parks Maintenance area. Fachin reported that there is a new school being developed at B Street and Place Road. Fachin mentioned this item because it raises the fact that there is a median along Place Road that will have 10-15 trees removed to provide a left turn lane. The City has asked the School District's architect for an on-site improvement to add trees back along the side of Place Road. The City does have plans to relocate the trees, but does not have a final locations decided at this time.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

CREIGHTON: Creighton is concerned that private homes, public entities' and parking lots are under watering their trees. When trees don't get enough water they are not healthy and are subject to diseases. What can be done? Fachin said, "The City can control when they water but not how much they water." The concern is the health and size of the tree canopy. Fachin and Heim previously met with John Spevak and Tom Kaljian who both have concerns regarding the health and canopy issues. There was further discussion and it was decided to make it an agenda item at the next meeting when Spevak is present to discuss.

LATHAM: Latham commented on the great job John Spevak did putting together the presentation to the City Council. She also felt it was well received and that there was support from a number of residents in the audience. Latham also wanted to welcome Joe Heim.

MENEFEE: No comments.

RUBIO: Rubio brought the shirt she designed and had made for the presentation to the City Council. She was a little rushed to get them done before the presentation and hopes everyone likes the design she came up with. Rubio wants to continue with public relations within the community and let them know we exist, especially with us talking about Grants that might happen in the future. Have the community bring ideas and get involved as much as possible.

SPEVAK: Absent.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

Brenda Latham, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Patricia Nelson, Secretary