

**THE JOINT FLOWER MOUND TOWN COUNCIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION WORK SESSION HELD ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016, IN THE FLOWER MOUND TOWN HALL, LOCATED AT 2121 CROSS TIMBERS ROAD IN THE TOWN OF FLOWER MOUND, COUNTY OF DENTON, TEXAS AT 6:00 P.M.**

The Town Council met in a work session with the following members present:

Tom Hayden	Mayor (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)
Steve Dixon	Mayor Pro Tem
Itamar Gelbman	Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Mark Wise	Councilmember Place 1
Bryan Webb	Councilmember Place 2
Kevin Bryant	Councilmember Place 3

constituting a quorum with the following members of the Environmental Conservation Commission(ECC) present:

Craig Bromley	Chair
Russell McNamer	Vice Chair
Marilyn Lawson	Place 4
Alton Bowman	Place 5
Elaine Takacs	Place 6
James Gerber	Place 7
Karen Kroesen	Place 9
Jim Cumbest	Place 10

constituting a quorum with the following members absent:

Ellen Stallcup	Place 2
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and the Town Staff participating:

Theresa Scott	Town Secretary
Jimmy Stathatos	Town Manager
Debra Wallace	Assistant Town Manager/CFO
Ken Parr	Executive Director of Public Works
Matthew Woods	Director of Environmental Services
James Hoefert	Environmental Review Analysis
Tommy Dalton	Director of Strategic Services

**A. CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Dixon called the work session to order at 6:01 p.m.

**B./C. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG AND THE TEXAS FLAG**

Mayor Pro Tem Dixon gave the invocation led the pledges.

**D. WORK SESSION ITEM**

1. Joint work session with Town Council and Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC) to discuss the Town's tree ordinance, urban forestry programs, and receive an update on the sustainability initiatives.

**Staff Presentation**

Mr. Woods, Mr. Hoefert, or Mr. Dalton gave a presentation identifying or noting:

- Tree preservation regulations
- Urban forestry program components
- Tree planting
- Tree farm
- Memorial/commemorative tree program
- Sustainability initiatives
- Proposed amendments
- Post Oak review
- Post Oak preservation credits
- Current buildable area definition
- Preservation incentives
- Example that demonstrates how long it takes for an installed landscaping tree to grow

Mr. Woods, Mr. Hoefert, Mr. Stathatos, Ms. Wallace, or Mr. Parr responded to questions from Council or members of the ECC as follows:

- Feasibility of lot to lot drainage
- The possibility of having flexibility in the engineering to allow lot-to-lot drainage in portions of a development
- Option of empowering staff to make a decision on waivers in situations where it makes sense on a piece of property
- Whether there should be a final appeal option to go to Town Council if necessary
- Mitigation requirements
- Concerns regarding past situations where trees were planted under power lines
- Is a business currently prohibited from topping a tree; and if so, what are the penalties
- What benefit does the Town have in allowing a variety of species of trees
- What would be the mechanism to not allow trees to be topped
- How many tree spades does the Town have and what are its capabilities
- Procedures and timing associated with the amended landscape plan
- The possibility of offering an incentive to business owners when they opt to transplant viable trees within a site, or move it to the tree farm, versus complete removal
- Interest in knowing the survival rate of the spaded trees that came in about 10 years ago with LNR in Lakeside

- Proposed amendments
- What is the mitigation for protected trees
- What is the analysis on 19 inches (post oak tree caliper size-diameter) as it relates to the number of additional trees
- Ratios for protected trees
- If 22 inches is too low
- Reference to Fort Worth's tree farm and their program structure
- What would be the impact if it was lowered to 19 inches
- Clarification regarding incentives for the builder in saving a tree(s), and more specifically as it relates to specimen trees
- If the threshold is going to be lowered to 19 inches, should we relook at the incentive side or does it balance out
- Growth differences between live oaks and post oaks
- Interest in knowing why ECC had discussions about 19 inches; and later recommended 22
- What is the definition of historic trees
- What are the current Town tree initiatives
- Arboretum option adjacent to the tree farm
- What happened to the tree farm and learning center behind Forest Vista
- Mitigation fund balance
- The option of using Green Acres park for a passive tree farm at this time
- The option of using Heritage Park for educational tree programs
- Future developments on the horizon that might offer opportunities
- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) guided designs being a priority for Town buildings, which could later result in offering incentives to private developers who implement those attributes
- Possibility of focusing on a few sustainability initiatives instead of having 12-13 items being worked on a little at a time
- Interest in seeing a concerted effort to recover as much of the tree canopy as possible
- Recycling and green waste to be considered with the upcoming contract renewal for waste services
- Interest in having three trees per residential lot
- Upcoming educational series at the Library
- ECC feedback regarding the list of recommended trees
- Emphasis on saving post oaks in particular, including offering developers some type of incentive to do so.

There was direction from the majority of Council, in collaboration with ECC members, to proceed or gain additional information in the following areas:

- Allow flexibility in the landscaping requirements as it relates to circumstances when it comes to planting trees under power lines
- Interest in knowing the survival rate of the spaded trees that came in about 10 years ago with LNR in Lakeside
- Interest in having a comparison between 18, 19, and 22 tree caliper inches as it relates to specimen trees, and to address the tree credits

- Interest in inviting developers to participate when ECC hears the discussion so they can hear the impact, as well as what the incentives do for the developer – it was noted that it might give plausibility to the argument of making the change (caliper inch, mitigation, and the credits)
- Acceptance of empowering staff to make a decision in common sense situations as it relates to lot to lot drainage (half acre or more lot sizes), and to allow the Town Manager to authorize exceptions
- Interest in seeing a pro forma for the tree farm if there is a future expansion proposal
- The type of programs to take place at the tree farm should initially come from ECC; and subsequently the Parks Board

**E. ADJOURN WORK SESSION**

Mayor Hayden adjourned the work session at 8:13 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2016, and all were in favor.

**TOWN OF FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS**

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**THOMAS E. HAYDEN, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**THERESA SCOTT, TOWN SECRETARY**