



**City of Pass Christian Tree Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2026**

Board Members Present: Terry Gibson, Melinda Taylor, Lolita Welch, Brandi Viator, Avra O'Dwyer, Mariah Furtze

Board Members Absent: Chris Daniels (alternate)

Staff Members Present:

Melodie Hayes, City Planner

Brad Manus, Beautification Director & City Arborist

Audience Present: Jeremy Herring (Taylor Trees), Hank Martinez (Cypress Construction)

1. Call To Order

Board Chairman Terry Gibson at 10:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

A quorum was determined with the above-mentioned board members present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chairman Terry Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Board Member O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the agenda for March 19, 2026. Board Member Welch seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Minutes Approval

Board Member Taylor made a motion to approve minutes from February 19, 2026, meeting; Board Member O'Dwyer seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Applications

a. Consideration to approve removal of one Live Oak tree and one Sweet Bay Magnolia tree located at Tax Parcel 0412P-04-002.000, 115 Camelia Drive. Victoria Rafferty, owner; Cypress Construction, applicant.

City Planner Melodie Hayes reviewed the application.

Hank Martinez of Cypress Construction was invited to the podium to speak regarding the application and stated he has come back to the city regarding the application as the homeowner is wanting to demolish the house and start over. The Live Oak tree is dying and will not survive the construction. The Sweet Bay Magnolia tree had already been approved for removal previously from the tree board. The current property owners are willing to plant any tree replacements as required.

Brad Manus, City Arborist, indicated bad pruning has led to the decaying tree and the roots were chopped at some time in the past. A new driveway will continue to affect the current roots system and the new foundation for the new house to be constructed will compromise the roots and in agreement with Mr. Martinez will ensure that the tree will not survive the construction time.

Board Member Furtze asked about different types of tree diseases that are around the area. Jeremy Herring of Taylor Trees indicated that there are not invasive diseases for trees currently detected in the area.

Board Chairman Gibson made a motion to approve the application for removal of one Live Oak tree, with a 3-tree replacement or paid to the tree replacement fund at \$289 each tree, plus \$54 tree removal permit fee assessed. Board Member Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Board Chairman Gibson | Aye |
| Board Vice Chair O'Dwyer | Aye |
| Board Member Welch | Aye |
| Board Member Taylor | Aye |
| Board Member Furtze | Aye |
| Board member Viator | Abstained due to being an acquaintance with applicant |

Motion passed.

7. Discussions

a. Beginning prep work for creating tree planting plans

Staff would like the tree board members to start looking at what is a good suggestion for tree planting plans around the city.

b. Miscellaneous

The revised tree ordinance did not make the March 17, 2026 Board of Aldermen meeting but should be able to be presented by Jim Simpson, City Attorney, on the April 7, 2026 meeting.

8. Adjournment

Board Member O'Dwyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

Passed and approved on the 16thth Day of April 2026.

Melodie Hayes

City Planner

City of Pass Christian