



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005, 5:00 P. M.**  
**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**245 E. BONITA AVE.**

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**PRESENT:**

Mayor Curtis W. Morris  
Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Templeman  
Councilmember John Ebner  
Councilmember Denis Bertone  
Councilmember Sandy McHenry

City Manager Michaelis  
City Clerk Rios  
City Attorney Brown  
Assistant City Manager Duran  
Community Development Director Stevens  
Public Works Director Patel  
Parks and Recreation Director Bruns  
Planning Manager Hensley  
Landscape Maintenance Manager Rheude  
Municipal Arborist Deborah Day

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No one came forward to speak.

**3. STUDY SESSION**

- a. Staff presentation regarding a tree planting plan for portions of the Town Core.

Municipal Arborist Deborah Day summarized the proposed tree planting program for the town core. She stated that a current list of resident requests for parkway trees was considered and 60 locations were placed on the Fall tree planting list. She identified vacant and viable parkway planting locations within the town core, and to enhance and begin re-forestation of the town core, she proposed the installation of an additional 200 trees. Ms. Day reported that many of the existing trees are in fair to good condition, with the exception of several of the Ash, London Plane, and Carob trees, which are losing foliage and limbs, have large decay wounds, and are exhibiting signs of decline. In an attempt to prolong the life of these trees, staff will ensure they are regularly trimmed and monitored.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Municipal Arborist Day recommended species which will transition well with the existing species, minimize costly hardscape damage, and provide beauty and shade to the neighborhood. She further recommended that the City Council approve the addition of the Tallow tree to the currently adopted City

Street Tree list; approve the recommended transition species for the identified streets; and approve the 2005-06 planting program to include 200 trees in the town core.

Arborist Day responded to Council's questions regarding complaints from residents; transition species recommended; canopy cover; and said planting large trees could cause future problems.

Councilmember McHenry praised the cogent plan reported and remarked that, in the past, trees have been poorly pruned and suggested pruning be modified.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, Ms. Day stated she plans to send a comprehensive letter to homeowners with instructions on caring for and watering the trees. However, she indicated that if the homeowner does not buy into this plan, staff will have to maintain the trees.

Mayor Morris stated that the Council needs to revisit whether or not a resident could select a tree from the list if they did not want the tree chosen by the City.

In response to Council, Ms. Day stated she would work with Public Works to locate sewer lines, water meters, and stop signs. Landscape Manager Rheude indicated they would also consider the various underground utilities. Ms. Day further responded that spreading trees are easy to trim around power lines; however, upright trees would need to be topped. She added that 15 gallon trees would be planted during winter.

Councilmember Ebner said many downtown trees are 60-80 years old and showing their age. He stated he would prefer trees with a longer life span. Ms. Day recommended Pistache trees.

She further replied to Council that healthy trees would never be removed, but as older trees are lost, they would be replaced with the recommended transition trees.

Director Bruns said she has a tree planting budget and the objective is to focus on planting trees in the town core. She indicated that there are many open spaces between Fourth and Fifth Streets that have either lost or never had parkway trees.

Ms. Day reported on the problems of planting oak trees on Sixth Street; London Planes are too large to be planted under power lines; and she would monitor pruning done by contracted landscapers.

Mayor Pro Tem Templeman suggested writing an article for the City's Newsletter or appearing on "Ask the Mayor" providing education on tree care.

Director Bruns stated that Ms. Day has a management plan outlining goals, objectives and education; and they would start with planting trees in the town core, street tree designations, and return in the Spring for further direction.

Mayor Morris and Mayor Pro Tem Templeman endorsed the plan and recommended trees.

Councilmember McHenry suggested planting oak on Sixth Street, introducing clean soil, letting them establish, and create drainage.

Councilmembers were in favor of having Ms. Day provide residents the option of choosing a street tree, and providing care instructions.

In response to Mayor Morris' comment, Director Bruns stated that they are not proposing to remove concrete at one residence on Fourth Street. She would like to have another discussion in three-four months for direction on what to do about parkways filled with clutter.

Mayor Morris suggested planting a mix of trees at Horsethief Canyon Park to create a wooded area.

Councilmember McHenry suggested recruiting the Boys and Girls Scouts and/or the Rotary Club to assist with planting of small one-gallon trees.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Councilmember McHenry, seconded by Councilmember Bertone, to add the Tallow tree to the adopted City Street Tree list; approve the transition species for the identified streets as recommended by staff; and to approve the 2005-06 planting program to install an additional 200 trees in the town core, as specified. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:58 a.m.

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Mayor of the City of San Dimas

ATTEST:

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City Clerk