

1350 Baldwin Avenue
Post Office Box 685
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435



Phone: (850) 892-8500
Fax: (850) 892-8506
www.defuniaksprings.net

**CITY BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
1350 BALDWIN AVENUE, CITY HALL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025
5:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
 - A. Invocation
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. November 6, 2025
- 3. REGULAR AGENDA**
 - A. Additions/Deletions of the Regular Agenda
 - B. Approval of the Regular Agenda
 - C. Designated Tree Beautification fund, where businesses and individuals can donate towards Projects - Update
- 4. COMMITTEE PRIORITY LIST**
 - A. Item
- 5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

Florida Statute 286.0105. Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal. Each board, commission, or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing, if notice of the meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The requirements of this section do not apply to the notice provided in s. 200.065(3). In accordance with Section 286.26, F.S., persons with disabilities may contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@defuniaksprings.net or 850-892-8500 ext. 1103.

**DeFuniak Springs
City Beautification and Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
November 6, 2025**

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Sommer Adams called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Present: Kim Wennerberg, Sommer Adams, Mike Goodchild, Evan Anderson, and Janet Evans.

Absent:

Also, present was Andrew Andersson, Public Works Director and Sumie Gabbard Executive Assistant.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 17, 2025

A motion was made to approve the July 17, 2025 meeting minutes by Mr. Goodchild and seconded by Mr. Anderson; the motion passed without objection.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Century Link Tower - Kim Wennerberg

Mr. Goodchild stated that he has been trying to get a contact to take the old CenturyLink tower down and has been struggling to find someone with the necessary information.

Mr. Goodchild asked if anyone had the contact information for someone who could help.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that this may be something they can take to the CRA for funding.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that he will keep pursuing it.

B. Chipley Park Master Plan - Update Draft

Mrs. Gabbard stated that she emailed the committee a draft copy to review and bring back any recommendations.

Mr. Goodchild asked if this came about when they all met at the Lake Yard.

Mrs. Gabbard agreed.

Mrs. Goodchild stated that they will need to have some kind of irrigation for berry and bloom plantings.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that his concern is who will be responsible for maintaining these additional structures and water sources.

The committee continued reviewing the draft plan.

Mrs. Gabbard explained that this is just a draft.

Mrs. Gabbard stated that the plan came from taking notes during the Lake Yard workshop.

Mr. Goodchild explained that the planting will take place next year.

Mrs. Wennerberg joined the meeting.

Mr. Anderson stated that canopy lighting is included in the plan, but squirrels are always chewing up those lines.

Mr. Goodchild asked where the lighting should be installed.

Mrs. Wennerberg stated that it should be placed throughout Chipley Park.

Mrs. Wennerberg explained that they need to be mindful of any guidance from Eglin Air Force Base regarding lighting.

Mr. Wennerberg asked if they had found anything about the possible grant for the aerator fountain.

Mrs. Gabbard stated not at this time.

Mrs. Adams stated that she would like to see a bike path added at the bottom of the lake.

Mrs. Wennerberg asked if the committee wanted to adopt the plan now or bring it back at a later meeting.

The committee agreed that the plan can be amended if needed.

A motion was made to approve the Chipley Park Master Plan Draft by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Adams; the motion passed without objection.

Todd Bierbaum, a citizen of DeFuniak Springs, thanked the committee for supporting the fountain in the middle of the lake.

Mr. Bierbaum stated that the County may be a good source to help with the paving if the City purchases the materials.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that the person who discussed the fountain mentioned that it would cost about \$120,000 for a large one.

C. Knee Wall – Update

Mrs. A. Anderson stated that they can currently paint it white.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that for a mural, they will have to wait.

Mrs. Wennerberg stated that a moss or grass green color would look better.

D. Designated Tree Beautification fund, where businesses and individuals can donate towards Projects – Update

Mrs. Wennerberg presented information on the donation fund for projects.

Mrs. Gabbard explained that there is a line item in this year's budget for documentation for the Tree and Beautification Board.

Mrs. Gabbard stated that the board will need to develop a specific form for the documentation process.

Mr. Goodchild stated that they would like to have control over it.

Mrs. Adams stated that it should remain a general fund.

Mrs. Adams stated that these funds can also be designated.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that they can establish a suggested use for the funds.

Mrs. Wennerberg asked what happens to the funding if it is not used for three years.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that it rolls over to the next budget year.

Mrs. Adams stated that last year they budgeted \$190,000 and completed \$50,000 worth of landscaping.

Mr. Adams stated that for now, they can just keep the funds in the general fund.

Mrs. Gabbard asked if this responsibility is for staff.

Mrs. Gabbard stated that she can take this on and bring something back.

Mrs. Wennerberg asked how they can advertise for this.

Mrs. Gabbard stated that they can post a flyer on the website.

Mrs. Wennerberg stated that she can create something for advertisement purposes.

E. Ironwork/sign located at the Tesla intersection - Size and Materials – Update

Mr. A. Anderson stated that he talked to their welder, but he cannot build something like that because a machine is needed.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that he will talk to the welding shop in Mossy Head to see how much they charge for it.

Mr. A. Anderson asked what size the committee wants—6x8?

The committee stated that they think it should be 6 feet between the two columns.

Mr. A. Anderson asked where the funding for that will come from.

Mr. A. Anderson asked if it could come from donations or the CRA.

Mrs. Adams stated that they can reach out to the different sources they have, but first they should find out if they can even place the sign there.

F. Rotary Club Grant – Update

Mrs. Wennerberg presented on the Rotary Club grant.

Mrs. Adam stated that the money is available.

Mrs. Wennerberg stated that Barbara mentioned we can choose where it is used.

Mrs. Adam stated that she reached out and found out more information.

Mrs. Wennerberg stated that the Rotary Club will be responsible for taking care of it within the first year.

Mrs. Wennerberg asked if there is a location that anyone thinks is in need.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that he has not had time to drive around.

Mrs. Wennerberg stated that if he has any suggestions, he should let the board know.

4. REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA

A. Tree Donation – Other than a city park

Mr. Strawn presented on the tree donation outside of the city park.

Mr. Strawn stated that, according to policy, you cannot plant a tree in locations other than parks.

He noted that the current location where he wants to place the tree does not have enough room.

Mr. Strawn said he would like a recommendation from the board to see if they want the tree added there.

He explained that the root system could damage the sidewalks.

Mr. Goodchild stated that he told the applicant he doubts it will be approved because of the power lines.

He added that if the power lines were not there, it might have been approved.

Mr. Goodchild mentioned that it seems the applicant might move the trees off the property and replace them with something else.

He also explained that there will always be trees near the sidewalks.

Mr. A. Anderson stated that there is infrastructure around that area.

Mrs. Adam said that she thinks it is important to praise those who want to improve the community.

She added that we need to handle the situation with respect.

Mr. Goodchild stated that he could plant something smaller in that location.

Mr. E. Anderson said he is happy to talk to the applicant about future considerations and suggest something suitable to plant there.

Mr. Strawn noted that if something is parked there, it needs to have a certain height so as not to block visibility.

Mrs. Strawn mentioned that if more people plant trees, the city will have to deal with issues of plants blocking vision.

Mr. Strawn stated that he told this specific person they need to move the trees back to the property line.

He added that the city needs to set the precedent that people must come to the city before starting such projects.

Mr. Strawn noted that there is an ordinance that states you cannot disrupt right-of-way areas.

Mrs. Strawn said the ordinance is broad, but it is in place.

A motion was made to deny the application with recommendations to follow by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Goodchild; the motion passed without objection.

B. Urban Orchard Signage

Mr. A. Andrew stated that he is working on getting signs that will last.

Denise Kania, the City Grants Coordinator shared more about the signage and explained how it will be used as educational material.

5. COMMITTEE PRIORITY LIST

Mr. Gabard presented on the committee priority list.

Mrs. Gabard asked the committee to bring back the list to the next meeting so that, as a group, we can decide what will be on the priority list.

The board agreed that the organization is good.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Approved:

Kim Wennerberg, Chair

ATTEST:

Minutes taken by Rafael Ali, City Clerk
Proper notice having been duly given

City Beautification and Tree Board Priorities

	Item	Status
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

	Completed / Archived	Status
1		
2		
3		

City Beautification and Tree Board Priorities