

**Devils Lake Shade Tree Committee**  
**6-9-22**

Present: Tammy Meyer, Cory Meyer, Cathy Olson, Nate Bennett, Jack Volk, Lindsay Overmyer, Paul Thompson, Terry Wallace, Sara Laite, Deb Follman, Mark Olson.

Terry called the meeting to order. Jack made a motion to approve the minutes of the last two meetings. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark. Carried.

Staff reports:

Cory placed 6 purple emerald ash borer traps in various trees around the city and they will be out for several weeks. A lot of calls have come in regarding all the leaves falling off ash trees. The trees have some type of fungus from the cool wet weather and they will come back.

Angry Beaver, contractor for the city, has 7 trees to cut, mostly smaller ones. They will start on 10<sup>th</sup> St NE and work their way north. Anyone with any questions can contact Cory.

Discussion was held on the 2023 budget. The tree trimming contractor expense will be listed under temporary salaries. \$2,000 will be added to the budget to help cover some of the extra work for Cory acting as forester.

Jack asked if the city commission will reduce money from the fireman wages if Shade Tree takes action to request extra monies for Cory.

Cory thought it would be up to the commission whether the additional \$2,000 for a forester would be on top of existing firemen wages. Shade Tree Committee should be recommending a specific amount of \$2,000 be added to the existing salary.

Deb asked what the history was regarding a city forester.

Cory told her in the 80's the city had a paid forestry crew and Chief Bill Oehlke eventually absorbed the forestry duties into the fire department.

Terry asked if the additional \$2,000 would be a separate check or included in existing salary.

Deb felt it should be a separate duty with separate payment.

Nate didn't think forestry duties should be included in the fire department job description.

Deb said the city ordinance says Shade Tree is to appoint and pay a forester.

Shade Tree needs to recommend to the city commission payment for forester duties be included in the 2023 budget.

Cathy asked if the \$2,000 for forestry work should be noted separately in the budget and was told by Terry that the Shade Tree should request a line item for forestry.

Mark felt \$2,000 is not enough funding for the forestry work; it should be at least \$4,000.

Cathy made a motion to approve the recommended 2023 budget as reviewed, with a \$2,000 line item added for forestry work. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack. Carried.

Next meeting will be July 14 at noon.

Jack made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Carlson  
Recording Secretary