



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/2025

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Tim Bull – City Forester

SUBJECT: New tree planting appeal – 3106 S 20th Street

Municipal Code Section 56-23 Appeal

Any person who objects to proposed parkway tree planting may appeal to the public works committee within ten days of publication of the notice. The public works committee shall hear such appeal within 30 days of receipt of written notice of appeal. After such hearing the committee shall notify the appealing party of its decision.

ISSUE

Two new street trees are scheduled to be planted in the right of way adjacent to this property. The property owner prefers not to have any trees planted. The Public Works Committee needs to decide if the trees are planted at this location or not.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the trees are planted at the proposed location.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The City of Sheboygan's urban forest provides an annual benefit of around \$3 million, this in part includes: reduced stormwater runoff, reduced summer cooling costs, cleaner air and water, and reduced crime.

The City Forester is tasked with evaluating street-by-street all public right-of-way and public area space and site factors which aid in the determination of the tree genus and species and variety best suited to a particular planting site in regard to growth habits, shape, form, health, disease, insect and pest resistance, conflict with wires, lights, pavement, traffic, pedestrians, sidewalks, environmental pollution, sewers and space availability.

South 20th Street was evaluated for Spring 2025 tree planting and all available tree planting sites were assigned specific tree species suitable for each location.



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

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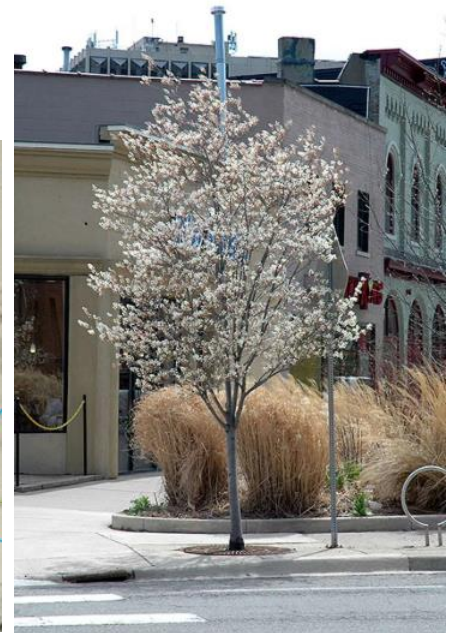
AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

The proposed planting includes two trees: the closest being 14' away from the driveway, and 27' away from the sewer lateral. (10' is the minimum distance suggestion) Also the closest tree to the street light is 20' away (15' is the minimum recommendation)

The proposed tree species are two Robin Hill Serviceberries which mature with an oval-upright shaped canopy reaching 20 feet tall and 12 feet wide.

Reasons listed in the appeal letter for not wanting a tree and reasons the City Forester supports having a tree:

- Does not want a tree blocking the view from front window
 - Two mature trees were removed in 2024 these new trees will be much smaller than the past birch trees.
- Does not want the sidewalk damaged from tree
 - These are small trees at maturity and it is highly unlikely the sidewalk will be damaged from these trees.
- Doesn't want to rake the leaves
 - Trees offer more benefits than negatives, these are small trees and will not be very challenging to clean up.
- Located on a curve in the road with a street light
 - The tree species is small and spaced far enough away from the street light to not interfere.
- Thinks planting trees is frivolous and the City should spend time and money on repairing roads and sidewalks instead
 - The City of Sheboygan has been dedicated to providing and maintaining an urban forest for many decades. For 47 years, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Sheboygan as the longest running Wisconsin accredited Tree City USA. Research shows trees are one of the lowest cost investments a city can make providing enormous benefits over their lifetime.



FUNDING IMPACT

There is no funding impact with this decision.



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

NEXT STEPS:

If approved to plant the trees at this location, they will be planted within 10 days by the Forestry Division.

If not approved for planting the trees at this location, they will be planted in October at an alternate location to be determined by the Forestry Division.