

**City of Biloxi
Tree Committee Meeting**

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

November 5, 2025

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.

Members present: Debra Carr (1), Doug Deluca (6), Wendy Lally (5), Susan Peterson (4), Jamie Tamburo (2).

Virtual: Jeremy Herring (7).

Excused: Mark Dubaz (3).

City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development, Brad Manus, City contracted arborist and Paul Tisdal, Ward 5 Council Representative.

II. **Minutes:** October minutes were approved.

III. **Public Comment:** I welcomed the guests in attendance and asked them to sign-in.

I reminded them that there is a total of 10 minute to speak. If they would like to speak or ask questions later during the meeting, please wait to be recognized. There was a question about Chick fil A trees which Mr. Creel addressed. The guest sign-in will be attached to the minutes.

IV. **Ongoing Business:**

Updates / Comments from the City and City contract arborist:

A. Mr. Creel let us know the City is still actively looking for a City Arborist and the job is still posted on the City web site. He presented a List of Trees removed/ trimmed or pruned. He went over the list and reminded us that trees removed were only for insurance requests, disease, and building issues. No healthy trees were removed. All trees have been documented with photos. If there were a questionable tree he contacts Brad Manus, the City contracted arborist. This List of Trees will be attached to the minutes.

Mr. Creel let us know that the Hawk Creek subdivision Phase 2 has been appealed.

B. Site Visit and Recommendations: There were none.

C. Committee Reports:

- DRC Attendance: There was no meeting on October 8th. Susan Peterson attended these meetings: October 15th, 22nd, 29th and November 5th.
- PRC/ Communications: An article was written for the November B News on the Trees of Keesler AFB in honor of Veterans Day.
- Majestic Tree Program:
Susan Peterson has submitted paperwork to the Societe Des Arbres for two Majestic Live Oak Trees located on Hopkins Blvd. She added the second tree after measuring and discovered it was older! These trees will be registered as the “Greater Hopkins Tree” and the “Lesser Hopkins Tree.”
- City of Biloxi Majestic Tree Program:
Susan Peterson has presented three City of Biloxi Majestic Tree Applications that were voted on and approved at the October 1st Tree Committee meeting for Milton Grishman, Avonna Cain, and Dr Tom Mason. These applications have been brought for a signature from Mr. Creel and then will be placed on the City Council agenda.

V. Current Business:

- Tree Committee Member Comments: There were none.
- Chairperson / Secretary Comments: Susan Peterson has been working with the MS Forestry to get 250 tree seedlings to pass out for Arbor Day in February. Additionally, she is hoping to receive some more trees and bushes to be donated and given out that day. She does not at this time have all the details but we are hoping to advertise the free give away for mid to late February on a Saturday morning to be held at Hiller Park with the assistance of Parks and Rec. It will be advertised in the February BNews and possibly two items per vehicle per household with proof of a Biloxi residence (driver's license is used by the other coastal cities.) Information on planting will be handed out. As we get closer to the date, we will be looking for volunteers?
She mentioned a live oak tree on City property at Edgewater Park. Located between Barq Drive and Edgewater Park Drive that is around 350 years old. The City of Biloxi is working on having the lighting restored for this Majestic Tree. The

Neighborhood Association is working on applying for the City of Biloxi Majestic Tree program.

- Reports to the City: There were none.

VI. Old Business: There were none.

New Business: Paperwork was emailed to all of the Tree Committee members for Isabell Kessler's Lopez Trees for a Tree Committee vote for the City of Biloxi Majestic Tree Program. Discussion was held and photos that Isabelle Kessler provided were passed around. Jamie Tamburo helped Isabelle Kessler register her trees after the City workshop was held in the spring. Susan Peterson met with her to help complete the process for the City Majestic Tree program. A motion was made and seconded and the tree committee voted unanimously to accept the Lopez Trees for the City of Biloxi Majestic Tree program. Each of these trees has been named for students that attended Lopez school. Isabelle Keesler will place a sign on the property identifying them. The completed paperwork has been given to Mr. Creel to add to the three COB Tree applications earlier in the meeting to be signed and forwarded to the City Council for approval.

VII. Meeting adjourned: 3:55 pm

City of Biloxi

Tree Committee Meeting

Date Nov 5, 2025

Guest Sign-In

(Please print and you may provide an email?)

Brandon Webb / Taylor Oaks HOA / bwebb1986@gmail.com

Sheri Munter

Paul A. Tisdale

