

# Shade Tree and Beautification Commission Minutes Commission Meeting



May 26, 2026

## VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING

Meeting videos are broadcast live and published on YouTube.com  
<https://www.youtube.com/@cityofmountvernon3369>

## CALL TO ORDER

Present	Absent
Randy Pursell	Safety Service Director Tanner Salyers
Sarah Wagner	Engineer Brian Ball
James Brown	Fourth Ward LeNan HagerRuss Mentzer
Emil Diener	
LeNan Hager (arrived at 3:30)	

## MINUTES APPROVAL

Shade Tree and Beautification - April 28, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

## OLD BUSINESS

TCP

Everything is in.

West End

Clintonville

60 trees.

Invasive Removal

Miksell reported that his office has received a quote on removing Bradford Pears. He wants to make sure that there are funds to keep up with other maintenance, such as maples aging out, throughout the city. Often, when putting out bids for large-scale removals, the City will put out a call for bids. A competitive bid is only required if a project is in excess of \$78,000.

America 250

No updates at this time.

Experience Mount Vernon

Experience Mount Vernon has put colorful pots with flowers in them on N Main Street.

Martinsburg Rd

Contact has been made with each property owner about replacing trees removed from Martinsburg Rd. No opposition has been stated.

Bee City

Platt noted that there is a budget of \$5,000 per year for Bee City. They rely heavily on volunteers. He is hoping to replace the old Bee City banner with a branded tablecloth for appearances, particularly First Friday, where the group will give out Seed Packets with QR codes that can give information on the seeds and Bee City. Platt is hoping to transform the Meadows into a more pollinator-friendly grass. Also looking at converting the North part of the cemetery into a native pollinator habitat. There is a 3-4 acres clearing in the Blackjack Wetlands that would be ideal for transforming into a pollinator area.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tree City Awards Conference

Miksell, Brown, and Hager attended the Tree City Awards Conference in Springfield, OH and accepted the City's 33rd year as a Tree City Award. As well as 12th Growth Year Award. There are various requirements to be met each year to qualify for these awards. There was discussion about whether Mount Vernon City would be interested in hosting in the future. Brown noted that it would require a large amount of planning and expense. The last time the City hosted, the charge was \$30 a ticket, which did not meet all expenses.

## **OTHER**

### **Other Removals**

16 Trees lost in recent windstorm. Miksell has requested inspections for 6, but there will be many more in the next five years that will need inspections/quotes. There are perhaps 50-60 trees needing removal across the city.

### **Living Center**

Miksell met with representatives at the Living Center on 5/22 to discuss planting trees on the property. The discussion went well and there will be further discussion about adding trees to appropriate locations on the property. One thing to take into account is making sure that the species planted are resistant to road salt runoff or recommending that the property owner place a barrier to protect them from the same. Linden trees may be a good option.

### **Commission Membership**

The Commission discussed the need to have new members appointed to the commission or legislation that would allow members who do not attend to appoint alternates.

### **June 27th Planting**

Planting at the corner of Adams St. and W Gambier. Platt discussed the need for pots. He will send out an email with details for the event.

## **ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 3:55 p.m.