

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 22, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following Council Members present: Amy Ernst, Dennis Weber, Mike Kuhle. Absent: Chris Kielblock, Amy Woitalewicz.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Chad Nickel, Public Works Supervisor; Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others present: Chloe Farnsworth, *The Globe*; Bill Kietel.

BOULEVARD TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT POLICY FOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, presented information regarding boulevard tree removal during street reconstruction projects. Due to modern construction methods, mature boulevard trees often need to be removed to accommodate curb, gutter, and sidewalk replacement. Staff has reviewed the benefits of boulevard trees, long-term maintenance and infrastructure concerns, and noted that the City's Tree Ordinance does not currently address replacement of trees removed during reconstruction projects. Five policy options were presented for Council consideration: (1) one-for-one boulevard tree replacement, (2) voluntary private property planting at the property owner's expense, (3) voluntary private property planting at City expense, (4) continue the current practice of no replacement, or (5) modify project designs where feasible to preserve existing trees. Council discussed the options and was asked to provide policy direction for future street reconstruction projects.

Discussion was held by among everyone on the different options that were presented and it was determined that departments will work together to save as many trees as practical per reconstruction project.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk