

New Smyrna Beach City Commission Meeting
Aug. 29, 2018

1. City Commissioners unanimously agreed to postpone voting on a property owner's request to cut down 16 live oaks large enough to qualify for "Historic Tree" status. The issue is slated to come back before the Commission at its Sept. 11 meeting.

The trees stand on two vacant parcels of land totaling 47.58 acres (of which eight acres are submerged), located west of Old Mission Road and north of Eslinger Road. Both properties currently are under preliminary plat review. The land already has an approved and recorded Planned Unit Development for a residential project known as The Reserve at Lake Waterford Estates.

A tree survey revealed nine of the 16 trees are in good condition; three are in fair condition; and the remaining four are dead, dying or diseased. City staff members recommended against approving the destruction of all 16 trees. They noted the site is raw land and the PUD is in concept form only, so the project could be designed to preserve the nine healthy trees and possibly save the trees judged to be in fair condition. The city's Planning and Zoning Board also recommended against removing the trees for those reasons.

2. City Commissioners voted 5-0 to pass the first reading of ordinances annexing, rezoning and amending the city's Future Land Use plan for about .03 acres at 170 Hickory St.

The property is currently developed with a single-family house and accessory structures, and no increased density is proposed for the property. Second readings and public hearings for the ordinances are scheduled for Sept. 11.

3. In another unanimous vote, the City Commission approved the first reading of an ordinance designating the Woman's Club of New Smyrna at 403 Magnolia St. as a "Local Landmark."

The city-owned Woman's Club is a Mediterranean Revival/ Mission style building that was built in 1924. It is listed on the federal National Register of Historic Places and was awarded the 2010 Donnadine Miller Historic Preservation Award. The New Smyrna Beach Historic Preservation Commission voted June 13 to recommend that the City Commission recognize the Woman's Club building as a Local Landmark.

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