

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMETOWN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

January 20, 2026

Call to Order: The Ordinance Committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Hometown was called to order by Mayor Finnegan on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Roll call indicated that the following committee members were present: Chairman Reynolds, Alderman Weber and Alderman Forney.

Also present: Clerk Walker, Treasurer Roti, Aldermen Barnhouse and Rivas.

Mayor Finnegan stated there was an incident in October where a resident on 90th Pl. cut down a tree in the middle of the day. The tree fell into the street and traffic stopped. They were not licensed and it was not done professionally. The code currently reads that no permit is required. We need to have a permit required for any tree removal. We need to have it define public vs. private and size for the safety of the residents. Any thoughts? Committee Chairman Reynolds said the code reads that any tree on public property needs a permit and we have to change it to read private property. Alderman Barnhouse stated the City should take care of any tree on public property (in the City easement). Mayor Finnegan responded yes, we do. We want to define in the permit where the tree will fall as well. The residents in October were holding up traffic and there was no safety in place. Chairman Reynolds asked if other towns specify size. Mayor Finnegan responded yes and they typically cut the tree in sections not in whole. Alderman Forney asked if a citation was issued and Mayor Finnegan responded yes, due to the safety issues. We need companies to be insured. It was mentioned that former Alderman Dan Walsh is a certified arborist and that maybe he can assist on this matter. Mayor Finnegan said there are too many new residents who are quick to do work without permits. Alderman Weber asked if something had happened would the City be liable? Mayor Finnegan responded no because it was private. He asked if there are any thoughts on where we want to go with this? Alderman Rivas asked about residents having to get a permit when cutting down neighbor's branches when they overhang over your property. It was answered no because the permit would be for trees and not just branches but that residents should contact City Hall. Other towns do have trimming rules. Mayor Finnegan said we do need to specify between private vs. public and size. We need to come up with the wording on how we want the permit to read.

Misc. Business: None

Moved by Alderman Reynolds, Seconded by Alderman Forney to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

Christina M. Walker
City Clerk/Collector