

The Ocean City Shade Tree Committee
City Hall Council Chambers
861 Asbury Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226

[Meeting Minutes Wednesday March 25th, 2026](#)

Meeting Called to Order: 9:04 AM

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given pursuant to Public Law 1975: Chapter 231

Roll Call.

Present: Joseph Clark, Joshua Linthicum, Mary Louise Hayes, Kyle Costello, (City Liaison) Marie Crawford, (Secretary) Donna Moore, Sandra Simpson

Absent: J. Michael Lehman

Public Comment: (Agenda Items Only) None

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes dated Wednesday, March 3rd were approved with one change: to add the word pesticides to the sentence regarding fertilizer application.

Old Business:

Report from Kyle Costello on the status of any ongoing public landscaping and/or planting projects: City is actively assessing tree damage from storms. Removal and pruning is ongoing. Pine tree inside the park between 4th & 5th St. on Wesley Ave. were removed. Concern expressed about yard waste removal: There is more than usual due to storms. Several committee members noted pickup has been inconsistent. Our city is assisting with picking up yard waste removal in the interim. Kyle reported the contracted company had an equipment malfunction. Several committee members noted there is a need for the public to learn more about the rules for putting out yard waste. In response, Joe Clark stated he will talk with Doug Bergen.

New Business:

- The following property plans were submitted to the Committee for compliance review and comments.

- o **3308 Bay Ave.** The plan shows no street trees and arborvitae surrounding the power station yard. The committee recommends Taylor Juniper, (a tall variety which is available locally) as a screen to be placed around the power station yard rather than arborvitae due to arborvitae not surviving flooded areas, city cost in removing them, their not performing well in salt water flooding, and the large number of arborvitae that did not survive last fall/winter that were planted under the same conditions. Street shade trees are needed and not pictured in the plan. The Shade Tree Committee recommends the following shade trees along the street: Bald Cypress, one every 50 feet. The dimensions of the property were not clear on the plan. Property is city owned.

- o **304 Seabright Rd.** Approved as is.

- Review of the Shade Tree Account: Kyle provided a statement of the Shade Tree Account ending in 0107. Balance of 2/28/26 is \$27,887.70, with no additions. \$1.42 in interest was earned.
- Sandy suggested an increase in the cost of trees for the waiver program. Based on information from Shade Tree Federation Conference attendance, the cost of a new tree is \$450 to \$500, statewide. Our current waiver is \$350. The committee recommends an increase to \$500.
- Arbor Day Ceremony: Scheduled attendance for all committee members at the Primary School for their planting project, 10 A.M. Friday, April 24th, enter from the front of the school and sign in.
- Shade Tree Committee: Drive tour date set for Thursday, April 9th 10AM - 12:30. Meet at airport. Park toward the road. Alternate meeting place: Shelter Road, first lot on the left. Kyle will request a city van and update members prior to event.
- Discussion of city maintenance due to failing arborvitae on city property. The Shade Tree Committee recommends to the city that arborvitae not be continued to be replanted on city property due to poor salt

tolerance and the need for regular removal. Kyle noted that prior to this winter we lost approximately 75 arborvitae around the pump stations, (which the city is planning to replant) Bayside, Bayland, Bayside Center, 46th street fire house, and some other smaller sites. The committee recommends Taylor Junipers, or red cedar which are salt tolerant.

- Shade Tree Committee will pay for trees at the Ocean City Primary school at 5th and West, to the South of the playground area.
- Donation from Allyson Kliefoth - Joe left a message, has not heard back, and will call again.
- Pending business to be considered at the next meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd 2026, 9:00 A. M.

Public Comment* None

Adjournment of the Meeting: 10:23 A.M.

Minutes Submitted by M. Crawford, Secretary
(mgc 03/25/26)