

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

July 1, 2010 6 PM  
MUNICIPAL CENTER

### MINUTES

#### **Present**

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Susan Threlkeld  
Dr. Jimmy Davis  
Clyde Davidson

Brandy Miller  
Judith Goden

#### **Staff**

Bo Mills  
Joe Nunes  
Juanita Bell

#### **Visitor**

Ken Adams

**Absent:** Urania Erskine, Andy Foster, Linda Kaplan, David Thorpe

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Joe Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:**

The Commission welcomes Ken Adams as a recurring visitor.

#### **MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The minutes of the May and June meeting were approved.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **Bo Mills:**

Mr. Mills reported that water consumption has risen to fifteen million gallons a day. The average during winter months is four to five million gallons per day.

Mr. Mills invited the Commission to join in Fourth of July celebrations.

Mr. Nunes and Ms. Bell reported that the City has established a Green Council which will focus on energy savings and evaluate the City's carbon footprint. Brown & Caldwell and Fisher & Arnold will be assisting in attaining this information and the goal is to reduce green house emissions. The City is hoping to reduce these emissions by 2015.

##### **Joe Nunes:**

Mr. Nunes announced that Tim Bierdz was not able to attend the meeting and gave his report. The stormwater fee has been delayed once again and will hopefully be on the August bills.

Mr. Nunes reported that recycle volume is up considerable in June which made the volume per household for this year about the same as last year. Household garbage is within 1% of the normal.

Mr. Nunes will bring the solid waste collection bid to the Commission when it is available.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Brandy Miller – Education:**

Ms. Miller reported that she is in the process of contacting schools to set up recycling presentations and looking to the principals to help set these up. Ms. Miller will be looking into a 4<sup>th</sup> grade art contest and requested that the Commission possibly help with judging the final posters.

##### **Jimmy Davis – Research:**

Dr. Davis reported on the Gulf Oil Spill. Today this spill has been deemed the largest oil spill ever in the Gulf, exceeding the spill in Mexico in 1979 which was 3,300,000 barrels of oil. The spill, which began on April 20<sup>th</sup>, was due to the explosion of oil rigs and killed eleven people. The blow-out prevention failed and the drilling rig blew up. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> crews started drilling the relief wells. The second well was started on May 16<sup>th</sup>. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, crews pumped mud and concrete into the pipes but pressure blew everything back out into the Gulf. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Top Kill was ruled a failure. Hurricane Alex stopped the skimming process but oil recovery continued with 1/3 of the oil being recovered. There have been reports that there are 2,500 skimmers available in the U.S. but B.P. has only employed use of 500. A new agency is being formed to oversee and execute protection rules. Safety features will be developed.

The largest oil spill to date was in Iraq/Kuwait when oil fields caught fire.

##### **Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:**

Ms. Threlkeld had nothing to report.

##### **Judy Goden – Water Conservation:**

Ms. Goden had nothing to report.

##### **Clyde Davidson – Storm/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:**

Mr. Davidson had nothing to report.

**Ken Adams:**

Mr. Adams commented on how proud he was to reside in Germantown. Also, WMC has launched a new website with events in specific areas. Germantown has its own page and Mr. Adams advised that if anyone knew of upcoming events, he could post those events on the website.

**COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:**

Chairman Skelley presented an article on a home power plants project that was recently unveiled in Germany. Volkswagen is setting up home generators in the hopes of getting rid of nuclear power plants. These generators back up to solar and wind energy. The initial cost of the generator is around seven thousand dollars but residents would get a discount on utility bills and a bonus at the end of the year.

Mr. Davidson commented that a Memphis company, Sharp Manufacturing, is one of the biggest providers of solar panels to Germany.

Mr. Nunes mentioned that MLGW is beginning the smart meter program and has expanded the program due to higher demand than initially thought.

Mr. Mills announced that MLGW would be offering energy kits at the library on July 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Susan will set up and work the Environmental Commission Water Conservation Booth.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Mills reported that July 24<sup>th</sup> will mark the Community Build Day at the Riverdale Nature Park. Small teams will be assembled to assist. There has been grant money from Methodist and Baptist hospitals and Playcorp, Inc. is providing the equipment.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Commission adjourned at 6:50 p.m.