



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815  
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 www.germantown-tn.gov

## Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Steve Fleischmann  
Andy Foster

Linda Kaplan  
Scott Schoefernacker  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh

#### Staff

Bo Mills  
Kathy Cross

#### Absent

Alderman Janda  
Paul Mosteller  
Joe Nunes

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

No guests were present.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

#### COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN

Chairman Skelley thanked Mrs. Threlkeld for hosting our December meeting and holiday dinner.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills gave a brief overview of the Code of Ethics Policy for Commission members, the Open Records Policy, and shared that historical and infrastructural information were included in Commission members' packets. Commission members signed the Ethics policy form which Mrs. Cross will send to the City Clerk, Michele Betty. This is the first time since Mr. Mills has been a member of the Commission that all members remained the same from one year to the next.



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With snow in the forecast, Mr. Mills shared Public Works' procedures for snow and ice removal. We have two distributors that put out a 2/3 sand, 1/3 salt mixture onto the roadway. The sand is for traction and the salt breaks down the ice and melts what is on the roadway. Our goal is to work on major intersections, curves, hills; places that we historically know are trouble spots during snow and ice events. If conditions get really bad, Public Works crews will actually throw the mixture from the back of trucks with shovels. In extreme conditions, the City is divided into 10 quadrants; one or two crews are assigned to each quadrant to work every stop sign, every hill, and every intersection in their quadrant. Everyone from Public Works is brought in to work streets and combat the ice and snow. Germantown Road and Poplar Avenue are State routes; we do not maintain those two roadways. If conditions get bad enough causing traffic problems, and State crews cannot get here for several hours, we may go out with our equipment to work on those roadways because of the value we gain from keeping traffic moving through the City. We have 2 plows that mount on the front of pick-up trucks that are used a lot on parking lots or for clearing intersections. We do apply a brine treatment on roadways occasionally. It is not as effective in this part of the country because the rain usually precedes the frozen precipitation and washes away the brine. We buy the salt brine from the Shelby County and then apply it with our tanks. We've only applied brine 4-5 times in the past 20 years because our snow events normally start with rain. As a general rule, crews come in at 5:00 a.m. and stay until 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. on a staggered schedule. Crews do not work overnight. Most of our events only last a day or two. After the snow is gone, we then have to clean up the sand and salt that we applied.

Joe Nunes sent news that recycling content is still up and household garbage is down. Mr. Nunes is preparing a comprehensive report concerning the first six months of Waste Pro's work for the board and will share with the report with the Commission at our next meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scott Schoefnacker: Mr. Schoefnacker shared that on February 2<sup>nd</sup> he along with Tim Bierdz will be speaking with English Meadows Neighborhood Association about applying stormwater stickers in their neighborhood. Hopefully the stickers will start being applied at the end of March when the weather gets nicer.

Jimmy Davis: Mr. Davis shared that his defibrillator ran on lithium batteries that were recalled. On December 27<sup>th</sup> Mr. Davis had surgery to exchange the batteries. The surgery went well and the new batteries should be good for 10 years unless they fail. It is not the same design as the Samsung lithium batteries that can catch fire. There is less than 1% chance that his new batteries will fail.

Mr. Davis asked Bo Mills if Germantown has any LED street lighting. Mr. Mills replied that there are a few down Wolf River Blvd and some in parking lots. Memphis Light, Gas and Water has not committed to going to LED structures; they are still changing out the filament types. Mr. Davis shared an article stating that the American Medical Association has come out and cautioned about LED lights that are 4000K because they are so blue they can cause night blindness and people losing sleep. They are longer lasting and energy efficient but some cities are switching from 4000K to 3000K when replacing them because of the frequency of the wavelengths.



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Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld shared that her new favorite web page Treehuggers.com stated that microfibers in fleece that are not natural fibers get into the wastewater treatment plants, then into the oceans. Small organisms ingest the fibers that cannot be digested and then it can eventually end up in our food. The website described it as "The biggest environmental problem you've never heard of." The web site recommends that you use natural fibers.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine shared that when City of Memphis puts out their recycle carts, if there is misuse of the cart, the waste collection crews will put a sticker on the cart stating the violation; After three stickers are put on the cart, the cart is removed. Germantown does not have such a policy.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann reported on the paper yard waste bags that Joe Nunes distributed at our last meeting. The bags were harder to work with because they rip and get wet. They don't hold as much debris because they don't stretch like the plastic bags. The cost of the bags is higher than the cost of plastic.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan brought the same article about LED lights that Mr. Davis shared. Mrs. Kaplan brought up the question whether the brightness or types of headlights on cars are regulated by consumers.

Andy Foster: No report.

Jayu Wagh: Mrs. Wagh had some questions for Mr. Mills: Why does Germantown not follow Collierville's procedure to vacuum up leaves that residents pile into the curb? If we vacuum up the leaves, there is no plastic to go to the landfill. Mr. Mills replied that Collierville has its own garbage collection with city employees. For Germantown, it is a stormwater issue; if resident's pile leaves on the street and the rain comes, the leaves block stormwater drains. There is no way without a sanitation division to be responsive enough to collect all the leaves. For weeks leaves would be sitting, littering the streets and clogging up the storm drains. We do have a couple leaf vac trucks that work streets to collect what naturally falls or blows into the roadway in order to keep stormwater drains from getting clogged. Germantown has a different topography from Collierville and they have 43 people in their garbage division. Some areas of town we vacuum two or three times through the fall because of heavy leaf areas and heavy hills while other areas may only get to once during the winter. We generally work trouble areas where we know there is potential for stoppage. We also use our vacuum trucks to clean up our park lands, athletic fields and playgrounds.

Mrs. Wagh also asked what the price difference was between the paper yard waste bags and the plastic. Mr. Mills stated that Joe Nunes shared that the price of the paper bags was approximately twice that of the plastic.

OLD BUSINESS:  
No old business.



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## NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Skelley asked that Commission members brainstorm to come up with new ideas & topics to research and investigate for the City in the coming year. Bo shared that the new water tower is still on the table and would ideally be located at the same site as the new school. The school board is gathering information about the four available sites and should make a recommendation about a preferred site soon. Trader Joe's has decided to move into the existing building on Exeter where Kroger was previously. The Travure construction at Poplar and Kirby has MAA (Mid America Apartments) offices moving into that site. MAA is a huge employer and that will be a good location. From new developments at Winchester and Forest Hill to additions at the Carre Four Mall, it should make for an exciting time in our City.

## ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.