

# Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

## MINUTES

### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley

Urania Erskine

Steve Fleischmann

Andy Foster

Linda Kaplan

Paul Mosteller

Scott Schoefnacker

Susan Threlkeld

Alderman Dave Klevan

### Staff

Bo Mills

Joe Nunes

Leslie Acerra

Absent: Jimmy Davis and Jayu Wagh

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

### STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills shared information about the leaf program which will begin again on Monday, November 9. The Public Works Department has three leaf vacuum trucks. One is primarily dedicated to parklands for the trails, parking lots and roadways in the city parks. The other two are used primarily on the city streets. The city only collects what naturally falls in the roadways. The purpose of this program is to keep the leaves and debris from getting into the stormwater system and blocking storm drains.

The city also has a sweeping contractor that provides contract sweeping service on a weekly basis for commercial routes, bi-weekly for high volume traffic corridors, monthly for major collector routes and six times annually for designated residential areas that are heavily wooded or potentially flood prone areas. The sweeping contractor also provides city-wide sweeps twice a year.

Between the Public Works Department and the sweeping contractor, approximately 2,500 cubic yards of leaves will be diverted from the stormwater system annually. With this level of diversion, stormwater drain flooding rarely occurs. The stormwater fee is used to purchase machines and pay salaries for this work.

The street sweeping contract will be taken to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval on Monday night.

Joe Nunes: The city is moving forward with the solid waste collection request for pricing. They are working with a consultant to finalize a draft. Based on feedback, back door service will continue to be an option; however, the price will probably increase. They are also requesting all new household and recycling carts.

Larger recycling carts are being considered because the 35 gallon carts are not sufficient. The 64 gallon container will probably be the standard with the 95 gallon container as an option. Household waste options will be reversed to 95 gallon with a 64 gallon option.

Mr. Nunes went with the video crew from Houston High School and attempted to shoot videos to promote recycling. One video was about acceptable contents for recycling and the other was about correct placement of carts at curb. They had some issues with traffic and wind noise because they were filming outdoors. The videos will be available on You Tube soon.

The Neighborhood Summit was held recently. It was very well attended.

Mr. Nunes reported that household volume is up and recycling volume is down. Mr. Mills shared that Bartlett is having the same results. Alderman Klevan believes people in zero lot line communities have stopped recycling because they do not have room for two containers in their limited space.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scott Schoefnacker: Mr. Schoefnacker shared a map of the aquifer which he uses as a database of county sites. The Germantown sites are doing very well. This map is used for his wellhead protection plan.

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster shared an article about Antarctic ice growing. Sea levels are rising, but that is not due to Antarctica melting. More studies will be done to determine where the water is coming from. Mr. Foster will share the article electronically with the commission.

Alderman Klevan: The Germantown Road Realignment Project is developing. A meeting was held with TDOT recently which brought a lot of public input. A work session is scheduled after Monday's BMA meeting to discuss the project. The idea for the project started in 2004 with the purpose of easing mobility and traffic. Originally, the city was willing to pay 100% of the cost for the project. However, now this project will be funded 90% by TDOT and 10% by the city. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

In regard to the Western Gateway project, the Planning Commission has delayed the project. The commission wants to make sure it does what is best for community.

A Germantown High School senior scored perfect scores on both the ACT and the SAT tests.

Germantown Municipal Schools will have later start times next year.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Commission members were reminded about the annual Commission Dinner on Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Hall and Conference Center.

Commission applications are due to City Clerk Dotty Johnson by November 30.

The December meeting/holiday party will be held at Mrs. Threlkeld's home on Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. Members will contact Ms. Acerra as to what they will be bringing to the potluck dinner.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.