



# 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, February 2, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Steve Fleischmann

Linda Kaplan  
Paul Mosteller  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh

#### Staff

Bo Mills  
Joe Nunes  
Kathy Cross

#### Absent

Andy Foster  
Alderman Janda  
Scott Schoefernacker

#### 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.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

No guests were present.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes was prepared to report results of the first six months of contract with Waste Pro. As a reminder, there were some changes: The 96 gallon cart for curbside customers, 96 gallon cart for recycle customers and being delivered in February, a 64 gallon cart for back door customers that opt to use them, and there was a limit of 10 cubic yards put on yard debris. We are now looking at what we are collecting; Inland was not collecting properly. They were mixing recycle, household trash and yard debris. Mr. Nunes went back to FY15 to get a better picture of comparable volume data. The volume was about .94 - .96 tons per household, which equates to about 1,880 tons Citywide. At FY15 recycles were about 360 pounds per household, or 2400 tons Citywide. Yard waste was measured in tons in FY15 with Republic but was measured in Cubic Yards with Inland. Collection points were still at about 13,000 households, 686 condominiums of which greater than 80% are curbside service. We are down to about 16% back door



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customers as of fall 2016. Service opportunities on a monthly basis, based on three services a week, equals 27,826 full service opportunities. Under the new contract, we allow 50 misses for household trash monthly, 25 misses a month for recyclables and we vary yard debris misses, in the peak season 50 misses, off season 25. In essence, we expect 99.96% completion rate. Now to see how Waste Pro is doing: We had 12,047 complaints in FY16 for missed trash, recyclables and yard waste, not including missing carts, broken carts and other miscellaneous complaints. In the first six months of FY17 we had 1,111 complaints. In comparing the second quarters of this year and last year, we saw an 83% decline in complaints. Now to compare the response time for the same two quarters, our previous contractor resolved 28% of the complaints in 24 hours. Our current contractor is resolving 99% of complaints in 24 hours. Most problems with Waste Pro were resolved within the 90 day probation period. At the 6 month mark, recycle complaints are down 60 % and household complaints are down 30 – 40% in comparison to the past three contractors.

Mr. Nunes read from the Germantown Bulletin Facebook Page: “Wow, kudos to WastePro! I just saw them help my neighbor (82) who was trying to hurry and finish filling a bag of leaves. One gentleman got off the truck, helped her rake, fill the bag, tie it up, and muscle it out of the can she had it in. The truck had already rolled down the street but he kept on until he got it! He smiled and waved at her as he ran down the street to catch that moving truck. What a wonderful sight!”

Facebook comments:

“This company needs an employee of the week award that customers can nominate these great employees for. That is definitely above and beyond the call of duty!”

“They are so great!”

“Great bunch of guys. Thanks WastePro!”

This information was passed on to Waste Pro and this individual got a \$100 reward for his service.

FY17 volume reports reflect an increase of 30% or 380 tons per household on recycling collection and a decrease of household trash of 4.4% or 350 tons. Waste Pro is doing a great job! The FY18 budget is in the works now and we are not expecting a sanitation fee increase. With the City now paying for disposal of yard waste, we weren't 100% sure what our volume would be or the difference between cost for loose debris versus compacted debris; our disposal site quoted the same price for both. Loose debris would not be as heavy as debris compacted by a traditional truck. The collection process originally was to use a claw truck to pick up everything. Before Waste Pro even started the contract, they began using rear loaders and supplementing with claw trucks, reducing our volume. We are way under budget for our disposal of yard waste. (See attachments.)

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills shared that this past Tuesday he met with Insurance Services Office, the ISO, who set the insurance rates for fire departments. There are different rates for fire departments and fire protection. A ten rating would be non-existent and a one would be absolutely perfect fire department. Three years ago we scored a three which is very good. We are hoping with this review it will be a two. Mr. Mills is involved because the water system score is 40% of the total score. This is an independent agency who sells the information they gather to the insurance companies who then use that information to set their rates. For example, if you were paying \$1000 insurance a year in a 10 rated/classed zone, your insurance would be \$1000, but if you were in a rating or 2 or 3 rated/classed zone, it drops to maybe \$550 dollars for the same



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coverage. It is important to homeowners in the community because your insurance rates could reduce with a rating/class reduction to bring insurance rates down. To the economic development it is good because new homebuilders of apartment builders know they will have low rates which is a promotion for them for insurance. Three years ago, Mr. Mills proudly reports that we received 39.0 out of 40.0 on our water score which is unheard of. It looks promising and we are very hopeful that we will drop our score this year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jayu Wagh: Mrs. Wagh will hold her article about the TVA water contaminants to share when Scott Schoefernacker is present. Mr. Schoefernacker along with Tim Bierdz is addressing English Meadows HOA tonight about installing Stormwater Stickers.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan saw an advertisement for a documentary called "Expired Food Waste in America". The documentary explores how confusing expiration dates on containers are. The five minute film shares the how the regulations on what constitutes "sell by" dates vary state to state. Montana has the nation's strictest state laws for milk, requiring all milk containers to be marked with a date of just 12 days after pasteurization. The Dairy Industry standard says that milk maintains its freshness for 21-24 days after pasteurization. It is estimated that 90% of consumers discard food items past their expiration dates in fear that it will make them sick. But while the smell of spoiled milk might make you gag, it won't make you sick. Roughly 40% produced in the U.S. goes to waste. Not only does this fuel climate change in the growing of it but it is a major form of greenhouse gases. This doesn't even address the fact that this food could go to people.

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller has nothing to report but posed a question about yard waste to Joe Nunes. Could we put something in the "Talk of the Town" suggesting to the residents not to put yard waste to the curb days in advance to be an eye sore? Joe explained the ordinance addresses household waste not being put to the curb before 6 p.m. the day prior to pick-up and have carts in by 8 a.m. the day following pick-up. The ordinance does not address yard waste.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann has nothing to report.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine has three articles on the water aquifer. The articles state that as aquifer water is pulled out, bad water can be pulled in and affect the quality of our drinking water. Mrs. Wagh added that the article also speaks about the protective layer of clay that separates the deep aquifer from the shallow aquifer. There are holes in the protective layer and too much pumping near a hole could create suction. Memphis is trying to bring in more industry based on clean water; it is a topic that needs to be discussed.

Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld and Mrs. Kaplan attended the Green Women's Conference at the Agri-Center. The conference was pertaining to the Agri-Center and all its offerings.

Mrs. Threlkeld shared that a neighbor didn't get his trash cart out to the curb in time and was trying to catch the trash truck. The truck stopped and backed up to pick up his trash.



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Jimmy Davis: Mr. Davis has nothing to report.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Review of the recyclable paper yard waste bags; Steve Fleischman shared that the bags don't stretch like plastic bags so they don't hold as much volume, they tear and when they get wet they start breaking down. Jayu Wagh said she spoke with friends about the bags they inquired about the cost compared to plastic bags. Joe Nunes shared that the paper bags are more expensive and they are not as easy to use; unless there is an environmental or cost benefit due to lower disposal cost, it is a change that would probably not be favorably received. If we could find someone who accepts yard waste in paper bags and mulch that up, that would count as diversion for the State of Tennessee and help us achieve our goal of 25% reduction in volume. If we were to compost or mulch yard waste, we would be at 50-60% diversion because of the high volume of yard waste but it would also have to help the environment or cost the City less for us to make that change.

## NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

## ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.