



# 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, April 6, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Steve Fleischmann  
Linda Kaplan

Paul Mosteller  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh

#### Staff

Kathy Cross  
Joe Nunes

#### Absent

Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Andy Foster  
Alderman Janda  
Bo Mills  
Scott Schoefernacker

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 March meeting were approved.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes reports that he will not be present for Amnesty Day; the electronics recycling contractor has yet to be determined. The Cyber Yard most likely will return this year but a company named Fortune Sky Inc. is also being considered. Waste Pro is continuing to do a great job! We are approaching the one year mark soon and will be able to get a better idea of the true recycle volume, especially April and May. Our recycle volume is up from 132 tons to 235 tons in April. Last May, the previous contractor only collected 71 tons due to problems with crews putting recycle and household trash in the same trucks. Complaints for recycle, household and yard waste are down significantly from this time last year. There is no comparison of the quality of service Waste Pro is providing from our previous contractor.



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As it pertains to recycling, a year ago we were paying about \$55 a ton for disposal or recycled material while disposal at the landfill was \$30 a ton for household trash, now the recycling rate is at \$8.47 for processing.

Our sanitation contract is very specific concerning leaving carts blocking a driveway or mailbox, and there is a charge of \$50 to Waste Pro for each offense. If a back door customer's cart is left at the curb, a \$100 fee is charged to Waste Pro. Offenses have been very minimal and the supervisor assigned to Germantown does a good job.

A resident called Neighborhood Services wanting to provide a pizza lunch for all Waste Pro employees in appreciation of their good work on April 7<sup>th</sup>. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of National Garbage Men Week, the City, along with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, will show appreciation to our sanitation service providers by hosting a cookout at the Germantown Horseshow Arena; hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. Mr. Nunes invited the Environmental Commission members to attend.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller shared that it is once again time to test your automatic sprinkler systems and pay attention to where the spray and runoff is going. The water line running from the meter into your house is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain. Mr. Mosteller's insurance has a provision for repair or replacement of this part of his water system; if your homeowner's policy doesn't have such coverage, you might want to check into adding a rider.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Freischmann shared an article in the Commercial Appeal concerning a dry cleaner that was closed in the '90's. There are fears that the chemicals used at the store could have gotten into the Memphis Aquifer. Dry cleaners and how they handle their processing chemicals are supposed to be monitored by Shelby County. The new business owner at the former dry cleaner location now has health issues, possibly due to improper disposal of the chemicals.

Jayu Wagh: Mrs. Wagh shared an article from TreeHugger.com about a team of University of Colorado Boulder engineers working to create a plastic film to be used for cooling buildings through the principle of radiant cooling. If their research is successful, it could be used a lot more in the future.

Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld shared an article from TreeHugger.com about plastic straws. When Mrs. Threlkeld visited Crater Lake in Oregon last fall, they were encouraging people not to use plastic straws because of the sheer volume of waste going to landfills just from straws. TreeHugger feels like this is a manageable way that we can reduce waste. This is a possible precursor of what's to come with environmental recycling.

While out walking in her neighborhood, Mrs. Threlkeld heard water running in the sewer and suspected a possible leak at a neighboring house. She called the afterhour's water emergency number listed on the City's website which happens to be Germantown Police Dispatch. Dispatch suggested knocking on the



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door but unfortunately the house is vacant. The next morning, Public Works came to check the source of the water.

Andy Foster shared last month that the English Meadows Homeowners' Board would be inviting a representative from MLGW to speak about the smart meters; Mrs. Threlkeld attended this meeting. The MLGW representative said we were lucky because we aren't on the cutting edge of the smart meter technology; the meters have been installed in other areas and they already know where potential problems can arise. Most people are concerned with the meters catching on fire. When the meters are installed, if there are fire hazards with the connections, they are either repaired or replaced; to replace the connection the cost is approximately \$600. The current meters we have are no longer manufactured. It seems as though a lot of residents are getting a smart meter even though they opted out. The contractor MLGW hired was supposed to knock on doors to verify but they aren't. If you receive a smart meter and didn't want one, you can call and they will reinstall the old style meter. There are concerns about people losing their jobs due to the smart meters eliminating meter reading positions, but it hasn't proved to be too much of a problem. In Memphis, the smart meters will be attached to gas and water as well as electric for wireless reading. With the new meters, you can discontinue or start service without a technician coming to the location and also theft of services can be detected much easier. Level billing is available and a credit can be put on your account to pay in advance. You can monitor your usage and use off peak hours to save money. Smart meters also include technology to turn off service if a service limit is exceeded. MLGW expects all meters to be changed out by 2020. Mrs. Threlkeld obtained a DVD about Smart Meters at the English Meadows meeting that we can watch at a future Environmental Commission meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Amnesty Day will be held April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.