



# 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, June 1, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley

Jimmy Davis

Urania Erskine

Alderman Janda

Linda Kaplan

Paul Mosteller

Susan Threlkeld

Jayu Wagh

#### Staff

Bo Mills

Kathy Cross

Joe Nunes

#### Absent

Steve Fleischmann

Andy Foster

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 May meeting were approved.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes shared results of Amnesty Day. We had the most cars since 2011, approximately 1,100. The Shred-it trucks were filled up and left at around 11:00 A.M. We put up signs saying the shredding trucks are full; the trucks don't have enough time to go empty and make it back. The current shredding service is free but Mr. Nunes will be looking into getting more trucks at a cost. Alderman Janda included that 80-90 boxes of documents did not get shredded due to lack of trucks. This year we also collected the most scrap metal tons collected in seven years of the event and the most electronic recycling to date. The scrap metal was sold for \$695. We collected 12.88 tons of electronics; the last five events have averaged about 7-8 tons. With twice the amount collected, it resulted in doubling our costs for processing the electronics; the cost this year was almost \$9,500 compared to past years where cost was \$4,000-\$5,000. This increase was due to volume increase but also to the increase in cost per ton for processing; cost increased from \$383 per ton in 2015 to \$763 in 2017. Mr. Nunes will look into additional



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signage for next year designating where shredding and electronic recycling is available and signs concerning speed limits.

Mr. Nunes attended the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation Environmental Show of the South. He attended a presentation about e-cycling where a study done by MIT concluded that one-half of all households in the Country still have a CRT television or monitor. Of these, approximately 2.4 million homes included are in Tennessee. The cost to process these is .30¢ a pound and the average one weighs approximately 30 pounds; the average cost to process is \$25 each.

Concerning our trash volume, Mr. Nunes reports that household trash volume is down 4.5% for the year and the recycling is up 44%, a reflection of the poor collection of our previous contractor. One interesting session at the TDEC Show shared a study done by The Recycling Partnership which showed the national average, pounds per household, was 357 pounds per year. Germantown will average approximately 415 pounds when the year-end numbers are totaled. Although this is above the national average, we should be higher, approximately 450-500 pounds per year. Mr. Nunes is trying to find ways to better address recycling.

Mr. Nunes asked Mrs. Threlkeld if she is familiar with Georgia's Master Composter Program. At the TDEC Show they discussed the program. He wasn't aware of a comparable program in Tennessee; Mrs. Threlkeld had not heard of the program.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, we will host our solid waste collection crews to celebrate National Garbage Man Day. Public Works has donated the use of their cooker to make hamburgers and hot dogs. The event is to take place at the Horseshow Pavilion. Environmental Commission Members are invited to attend.

Mr. Nunes added that recent storm debris increased volume for yard waste. Waste Pro immediately put extra manpower on the trucks. They reached out to their other divisions for additional equipment and an additional claw truck to assist with collection. So far Waste Pro has been able to keep up with the debris pick up but we will have a better picture next week.

Bo Mills: Director Mills thanked everyone who attended the National Public Works Week cookout to recognize our staff. The Mayor issued a proclamation and recognized us at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting.

To update from the storm last Saturday night, our City fared very well. A lot of surrounding areas were disastrous. Our worst hit area was the extreme northeast corner, near Houston Middle and Houston High Schools. All the power has been restored in Germantown with only a few isolated outages remaining due to fallen trees or limbs. Memphis Light Gas and Water is working to get them all restored.

The City Budget is moving through. Monday night, June 12<sup>th</sup>, is the public hearing session for budget approval for the City and will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Director Mills encourages Commission Members to attend and represent those who have knowledge about the City and are



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appreciative of what is happening at the City level. Alderman Janda added that Finance staff has put together a wonderful budget. Paul Mosteller is on the Financial Advisory Commission with Alderman Janda; twenty-three citizens ranging in age from 20's to 80's, representing a good cross section of our community, unanimously recommended that the budget be passed as well as the tax increase to cover increased expenses. Alderman Janda is proud of the directors and staff for putting together these award winning budgets. Staff has put so much heart and soul into the budget and are trying to keep the excellent level of services we currently are accustomed to. We are one of the safest cities in the United States. Our ranking of Class 1 on our ISO rating speaks highly of our Fire Department along with the part Public Works plays.

Director Mills encouraged commission members to attend the upcoming Germantown Charity Horse Show to be held June 6-10. It is the City's iconic event of the year and Public Works has been busy helping prepare for the festivities. It's going to be a great show!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Alderman Janda: Alderman Janda thanked the Commission members for their participation in Amnesty Day.

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller asked Commission members if they received an explanation of the City's budget in the mail. Mr. Mosteller asked members' opinions of what they had received. Dr. Davis felt as though it was too complicated and too much text; a post card would have been sufficient. Alderman Janda agreed that it was a lot of text but explained that Aldermen were pushing for more detail; Alderman Janda feels it was very informative and Dr. Davis agreed. Mr. Mosteller asked if commission members feel if the City is being more transparent by providing the budget in that format. Commission members felt that it was transparent but not more transparent than past budgets. Dr. Davis feels that an option of an Executive Summary on one side of the document and detail on the other might be a good option.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine has no report.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan has a report from "Waste Dive". Each year the FIRST Lego League challenges students to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges. This year, for the Trash Trek theme, 26,000 teams of students from 80 countries were asked to pick a problem relating to the waste and recycling industry, figure out what was already being done to solve the problem, then improve or develop a new solution. The Incredibots, a group of four eighth graders from Ohio, took home a \$20,000 prize after winning the FIRST Lego League Global Innovation Award for their Styro-Filter invention. The Styro-Filter works to turn Styrofoam waste into activated carbon, which can then be used to purify water. The Styro-Filter is now patent-pending. Two runner-up teams were awarded \$5000 each for their inventions. The Robostallions of Stuart, FL invented Chipsulation, insulation made from shredded chip bags. Chipsulation helps to divert waste from landfills. The Cyber Tigers of Austin, TX invented water soluble 6-pack rings that can dissolve in the ocean, minimizing plastic waste.



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Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld shared that Talk of the Town this month has an helpful article about Grass-cycling. Also, if you take the current Talk of the Town to the Charity Horse Show you can receive four free tickets to the show.

Jimmy Davis: Dr. Davis has gotten his Smart Meter from MLGW installed but hasn't noticed any difference yet. Dr. Davis has noticed that Public Works has been repaving Neshoba. Director Mills shared that both Brierbrook and Neshoba were on our paving schedule this contract. Milling and striping should be done by tomorrow, June 2 and then crews will come back with striping for bike lanes. We have several other subdivisions; both the Mossy Creek and Woodlane areas have streets that will be paved. Over the next two months we will be completing our contract with Standard Construction. Mrs. Erskine shared that the plants on the new medians along Germantown Road between Stout and Crestridge look great and make a nice entrance to the City.

Jayu Wagh: Mrs. Wagh shared that in India, grocery stores charge for plastic bags. She suggests that if there is a charge for plastic bags in the States, there might be less use and in turn less waste.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

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