



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, July 6, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Steve Fleischmann
Andy Foster
Alderman Janda

Linda Kaplan
Paul Mosteller
Scott Schoefnacker
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

Staff

Bo Mills
Kathy Cross
Joe Nunes

Absent

Urania Erskine

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 June meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes shared the volume reports; household trash volume is down slightly. This has been a good month for recycling volume. In comparison with last six months of the fiscal year, for the last 13 years, we have had the highest recycling volume in FY17. This equates to approximately 1400 tons.

Bo Mills: Director Mills shared the results of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) water plant score. After their surprise visit and inspection of both of our water treatment plants, we scored a 97 out of a possible 100. They penalized us on our cross connection program. Backflow preventers are required for any type of irrigation system and also most businesses. Every backflow preventer is to be tested yearly by a licensed backflow certified technician; a form is to be completed and sent to Public Works. We presently do not have an efficient procedure in place to insure that these tests are being done and that the forms are being submitted. For next year's budget, we will ask for a full time staff person to do backflow testing and to make sure everyone is in compliance. Another issue pointed out by



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TDEC the overflow spout for the elevated tank at the Southern Avenue Water Treatment Plant. It needs to be piped all the way to the ground. This issue is currently addressed in our Capital Improvement Program. The high score shows that we are taking care of our system and are maintaining good records which are both important to TDEC. It also shows that we are investing back into these infrastructures. The elevated tanks at Southern Avenue were built in 1950 and 1970 and the Southern Avenue Plant was built in 1978. The Johnson Road Plant was built in 1996 and expanded in 2007. We will be working on the Cross Connection Program; we are challenging staff to have all the businesses' backflow tests recorded in the next 90 days. We will then follow up with the TDEC inspector to prove that we are working to get it accomplished.

Director Mills shared that we have a new budget after months of preparation. It is always a success and celebration to have a new budget and provide services.

Chairman Skelley acknowledged the great job that Public Works did working at the Germantown Charity Horse Show. Director Mills shared that Public Works is working more and more preparing and cleaning up for the City's special events such as the Horse Show and July Fourth Celebration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dr. Jimmy Davis: Dr. Davis stated that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has officially declared that Flu season is over. There are always multiple strands of the flu; the common strands being "A" and "B". This year there were two strands of the Influenza A designated as H1N1 and H3N2 and the "B" strand was labeled Influenza B. The flu vaccine was 73% effective for the B strand and 43% for the A strands for an overall 48% effectiveness. "Effective" is interpreted as how much it reduces the effect of flu on your body. Last year the vaccine was 47% effective and in 2015 it was 19% effective. The H3N2 strand causes the worst symptom and effects young people and elderly the most. This year there were more people 50-64 years of age hospitalized than infants which shows that H3N2 is mutating and effecting people differently. The flu season peaked in February; there were three weeks in a row in February were 15,000 cases were reported which unusual. In 2015-2016, at the end of February, there was one week with 12,000 for the peak. In 2014-2015, it was an unusual season that peaked at the end of December with 14,000 cases reported in one week. The good news is that Flu season over in the Northern Hemisphere but if you are planning a trip to the Southern Hemisphere it is just beginning. If you are planning a vacation in the Southern Hemisphere you should get your flu shot. The basis for next year's vaccine is the flu season of the Southern Hemisphere. Our next flu season starts in September.

Jayu Wagh: Mrs. Wagh attended the luncheon to honor Waste Pro staff for National Garbage Man Day. Our sanitation workers were very appreciative that the City recognized them. The event was a success.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann wanted to commend our sanitation workers on a job well done.

Alderman Janda: No report.

Paul Mosteller: No report.



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Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan shared an article concerning Great Britain going 24 hours without coal for electricity. This was a first since the 18th Century.

Mrs. Kaplan also brought information about "Evolution Bags". The 13 gallon tall kitchen plastic bags are made with 70% (third-party certified) Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) material. The rhino 42 gallon super tough white trash bags are made with 94% (third-party certified) PCR material. Mrs. Kaplan inquired how to go about getting 55 gallon PCR bags comparable to what the City uses. The representative said he could manufacture boxes of 100 for about \$21.50. The bags would be approximately 70% PCR material because the clarity wouldn't allow for a greater percentage.

Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld shared mail she received. MLGW sent her a postcard stating that her water service would be discontinued if she didn't have her backflow preventer certified. She also received a brochure about Smart Meter installation. Mr. Foster shared that Smart Meters are not being installed correctly because the people installing them are not electricians and are not trained adequately. There are 4 stabs that have to align when the meter is installed. Many of the meter sockets are not up to par and are not being replaced before the Smart meter is installed. These are reasons why the meters can cause fires. MLGW will come out at no cost to check the meter installation and socket. Mr. Foster is concerned about the possibility of power being remotely turned off by MLGW if usage limits are exceeded.

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster shared that France just announced they will ban the sale of gasoline and diesel fuel for cars by 2040. Also, Fed Ex has been hit by computer viruses. English Meadows had an awesome neighborhood July 4th parade.

Scott Schoefnacker: Mr. Schoefnacker shared that the Stormwater Stickers have arrived. At the next quarterly meeting of the English Meadows Homeowners Association the stickers will be distributed to volunteers in the community to be installed. Hopefully by the end of August all stickers will be installed.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Journals provided by Alderman Janda are still available if any commission members didn't receive one. It has been suggested that we get Environmental Commission name tags and shirts. Joseph Nunes will be researching cost and selection.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.