

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
October 4, 2012 6 PM
7700 Southern Avenue (Public Services Building)

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Urania Erskine
Steve Fleischmann

Linda Kaplan
Paul Mosteller
Susan Threlkeld

Staff

Bo Mills
Leslie Throneberry

Absent: Clyde Davidson, Jimmy Davis, Andy Foster, David Thorpe & Joe Nunes

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills: Recycling and household waste volume reports were passed around (see Attachments A & B, respectively). The recycling volume is slightly down from the same month last year; however, year-to-date it is slightly up. Household waste volume is estimated down, but we haven't received the final totals from the disposal company.

Amnesty Dumpster Day totals are shown in Attachment C. Roll off increased by 55% over last fall. Scrap metal increased by 56% over this spring. Electronics decreased by 26% from last fall. We had a total of 732 vehicles this year, which is down by 35% from last fall.

The City applied for a Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) excellence award. We applied for a Level 4 designation, which is the highest level. They formulated 51 questions from our application for which they wanted more information. The 5-person evaluation team was here Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for our site visit. We feel that we presented well. We will not get the results until the first of the year. If we receive the Level 4 designation, we will apply for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. If we do not receive the Level 4 award this year, we will continue to apply and work toward receiving this award.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joe Skelley: Thank you to the commission members who volunteered to work on Amnesty Dumpster Day.

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster submitted an article via email in his absence on climate change.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine mentioned an article in *USA Today* about water prices increasing in the U.S. by 18% over the last two years. Reasons for the increase were listed as chemical prices, employee pensions, new standards and terrorism. She questioned how the City is doing in this respect as compared to the rest of the country. Mr. Mills informed her that after the 9-11 attacks on the U.S., he assembled a team to do a vulnerability assessment on both of our water treatment plants. We were able to make many of the changes that were recommended. Some were in-house changes. Some were capital projects. Our water rates are among the lowest in the state of Tennessee. Our pensions are paid through the general fund and not through the utility fund. We maintain an average of ten days to two week's worth of chemicals on site during the higher consumption months. During the cooler months, less water is consumed, therefore the chemical consumption is lower also.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan brought an article from today's *Commercial Appeal* about Dr. Barry Commoner and Rachel Carson (see Attachment D). They were two primary scientists who started the modern ecology age. Dr. Commoner's experiments and knowledge contributed to the passage of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. Ms. Carson's book, "Silent Spring", about the widespread use of some chemicals, was having a negative feedback on the quality of our lives and the ecology of our planet.

Susan Threlkeld: Had nothing to report.

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller asked if it is permissible for a citizen of Germantown to drill a well in their own yard. Mr. Mills said that it is permissible with qualifiers, but he fights against it. He is very protective of the City's well heads. Mr. Mosteller also asked if we had emergency wells in the event of an emergency. Mr. Mills said that we do not have emergency wells. We have 10 wells in each well field. Many have the capability to be run off of a generator. Mr. Mosteller wanted to know if something happened to our treatment facilities, where would we be able to get water. Mr. Mills said that we do still have one connection to the city of Memphis.

Another way would be to have water trucked into the city. Mrs. Erskine reminded everyone that it is each individual's responsibility to store their own emergency water supply. Mr. Mills reassured Mr. Mosteller that our treatment plants are very secure and well built. Mr. Mosteller also asked about storing water in rain barrels. Mrs. Erskine said that Tim Bierdz will be giving a demonstration at the Preparedness Fair on Saturday, November 17th at the Memphis Stake Center at 8150 Walnut Grove Road. Mr. Mosteller would like for rain barrel information to be included in the City's *Talk of the Town*.

Steve Fleischmann: Had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: The Senior Expo is set for November 1, 2012. The Commission dinner is set for November 27, 2012. The Environmental Commission Christmas party is set for December 6, 2012 at Susan Threlkeld's home.

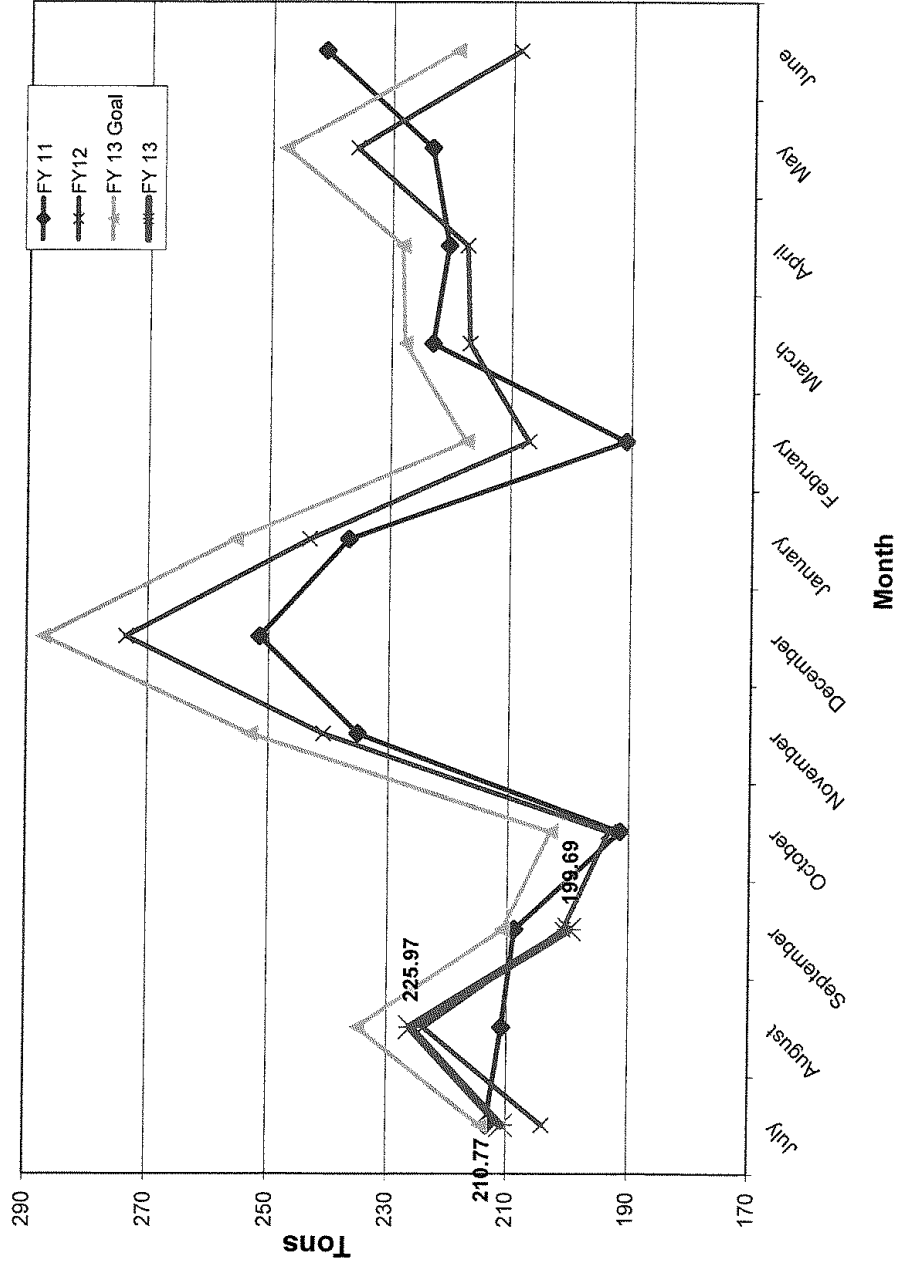
NEW BUSINESS: The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Greenway was a successful event.

ADJOURNMENT:

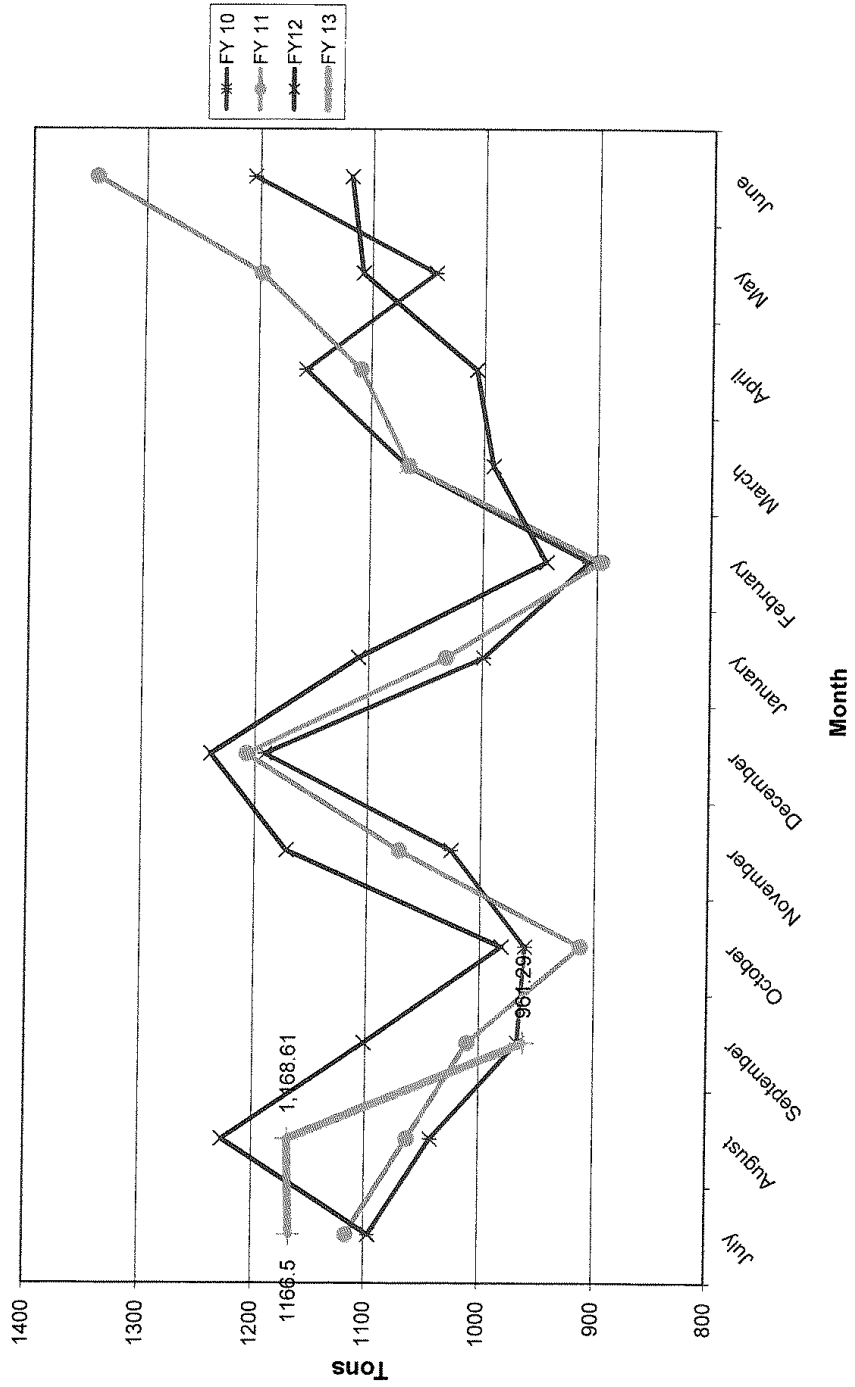
The Commission adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

City of Germantown
 Neighborhood Services Division

FY 11 - FY 13 Recycle Volume Comparison



FY 10 - FY 13 Monthly Household Trash Volume Comparison



City of Germantown
Amnesty Dumpster Day Totals

Location	4/18/2009	9/19/2009	4/17/2010	9/18/2010	4/16/2011	9/17/2011	4/21/2012	9/15/2012
Roll Offs								
TTL Cubic Yd	360	210	360	360		300	510	
Johnson Rd	180	90	180	150		150		
Southern	180	120	180	210		150		
Tons (est)	43.2	25.2	43.2	43.2	45	36	71.38	55.87
Expense						\$2,600	\$4,420.00	
Scrap Metal						Note:	Weight now being supp	
Johnson Rd	5540	5540	7520	5220	5900	0	2380	4700
Southern Ave	8420	8620	10660	4660	6200	0	4600	6260
Total	13960	14160	18180	9880	12100		6980	10960
Tons	6.98	7.08	9.09	4.94	6.05		3.5	5.48
Money Received	\$558.40	\$708.00	\$727.20	\$395.20	\$512.00		\$767.80	\$1,022.20
Net per ton	\$80/ton	\$100/ton	\$80/ton		84.62		219.37	\$186.53
Pounds	8256	7814	11018	8662	9211	10325	12533	8407
TV's & Monitors Weight	9917	11010	12406	9276	10291	11484	11881	7650
# TV's	69	110	110	67	91	130	155	78
# Monitors	113	104	143	121	88	91	92	61
Total Tons	9.09	9.41	11.71	8.97	9.75	10.90	12.21	8.03
Cost			\$2,481.20	\$1,391.40	\$1,543.65	\$1,722.60	\$1,782.15	\$1,147.50
Cost per Unit			\$9.81	\$7.40	\$8.62	\$7.79	\$7.22	\$8.26
Pounds Paper	14000	18000	27000				17000	11000
Tons (est)	7	8	13.5				8.5	5.5
Johnson Rd - #'s	594	565	715	658	709	727	738	536
Recycling	468	383	442	445	460	549	572	426
Southern Ave - #'s	316	243	344	226	286	409	304	196
Total Residents	910	808	1059	884	995	1136	1042	732

Attachment D

Comment

GUEST COLUMN

Commoner, Carson weighed risks, rewards

By Phillip G. Coop
Special to Viewpoint



Phillip G. Coop

Two recent events make this a time to reflect on the origins and validity of the American environmental movement. Dr. Barry Commoner, one of the founders of modern ecology, died on Sunday in New York City. And September marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson.

Both of these scientists had an enormous impact on our lives. Both were controversial and polarizing. Neither is well known to the public.

As a young scientist, Commoner performed the experiments that documented the link between radioactive strontium-90 uptake in children via the

become an environmental advocate in the public policy debate that ensued, but made some major missteps. He came to believe that only a socialist society could adequately protect the environment. Clearly, he was wrong. We now understand that governments are among the worst polluters.

Commoner also polarized the environmental activist community, some of whom objected to his belief that technology — which they viewed as a source of environmental problems — could also be the solution. But we should appreciate his groundbreaking concept — that technology has a feedback loop on our quality of life and the environment.

Commoner codified

that concept in what are now popularly known as the four laws of ecology: Everything is related to everything. Everything has to go someplace. There is no such thing as a free lunch. Nature knows best.

These laws are taught to elementary and high school students throughout the world. They present in simple language the concept that harmony with our environment, not our domination of it, can balance technological progress and environmental protection. This was not an accepted idea in 1960s America.

Carson's book, published in 1962 and intended for the general public, was an encyclopedic assembly of the science work done by others. It had the same

message, that the widespread use of some chemicals in the environment was having a negative feedback on the quality of our lives and the ecology of our planet.

Carson was much maligned as an enemy of the chemical industry, but her focus was not on banning all chemicals. It was to recognize that the effects of these chemicals in the environment were a legitimate, vital constraint on their use. Largely as a result of her book, the widely used insecticide DDT was banned in the United States in 1972.

Now, 40 years later, the wisdom of that ban is still debated. DDT's lethality to mosquitoes made it a miracle chemical in the prevention of malaria and

other diseases, and it is argued that DDT could still be saving lives. But we also know now that the consequence of its use could have been the elimination of birds from our environment. So we can knowledgeably debate risks versus rewards.

That debate is the legacy Commoner and Carson left us. We now know to ask the questions. We must hope that the lessons they taught us will be applied in our continuing national debate on environmental policy.

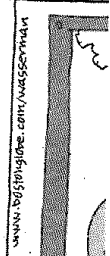
Phillip G. Coop is co-founder and CEO of EnSafe Inc., a Memphis-based company that does consulting work on environmental, health and safety, engineering and technology issues.

LETTERS

Bert DeLapp, Memphis

Distorted picture of black Americans

I DON'T HAVE FOREIGN POLICY



WRITE TO US

Letters to the editor must include the writer's name, home address and day time/evening phone numbers.