

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
June 7, 2012 6 PM
7700 Southern Avenue (Public Services Building)

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
Linda Kaplan

Clyde Davidson
Paul Mosteller
Andy Foster

Staff

Bo Mills
Juanita Bell

Absent: Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Steve Fleischmann
David Thorpe

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills: The City has signed a contract with U.S. Geological Survey for real time aquifer level monitoring. The website address hasn't been set up yet. The public will be able to sign on to the website to see what our water levels are in our own aquifer.

Over the winter, we did aquifer age date testing with the Groundwater Institute. The City was the only well that they tested that had 1,000 year old water in it. The tested water came from Johnson Road's Well #7.

Twice this year, we have exceeded the 14 million gallons of water sales in a single day. We didn't exceed that number at all last year.

Last week, a sink hole was discovered at West Street and Poplar Pike at the railroad tracks. Bo met with Norfolk Southern to discuss the failing terra cotta drain pipe that was dated back to the late 1800's or early 1900's. Norfolk Southern said this was not their responsibility. The City will have to take responsibility for these repairs. \$110,000 was estimated for the repairs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee member visited Iskiwitz Recycling where they recycle metals. She also learned about Extended Producer Responsibility which Joe Nunes had recently discussed with her.

Information was shared about Germantown's new Farm Park. Members must work a minimum of two hours per week. It is a chemical-free farm.

It was suggested to inform residents to check their irrigation systems to make sure the water is actually going on the lawns instead of into the storm drains. Many irrigation heads need to be repositioned correctly. Residents should also be reminded that it is illegal to blow lawn clippings into the streets and/or storm drains. There are several ways to get this information to the residents. Stacey Ewell is our Communication Manager. She can get information in our monthly Talk of the Town, put out a press release, post it on our City website, put a cable crawl or include it in the City's "FYI".

Many condominiums and apartments do not have individual water meters. Therefore, residents cannot monitor their individual water consumption. It was suggested that the maintenance personnel at these complexes go door-to-door checking for leaks. This would help with water conservation. Putting in individual meters would be very expensive and difficult to do.

NEW BUSINESS: It was agreed to cancel the July meeting because it will be on the day after a holiday and several people will not be able to attend.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m.