



# 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, October 5, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building  
7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Steve Fleischmann

Paul Mosteller  
Scott Schoefnacker  
Susan Threlkeld

#### Staff

Director Bo Mills  
Kathy Cross  
Joe Nunes

#### Absent

Andy Foster  
Alderman Rocky Janda  
Linda Kaplan  
Jayu Wagh

#### CALL TO ORDER:

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

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

No guest present.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September meeting were approved. August minutes were revisited due to corrections and approved.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes shared the results of September's Amnesty Day: We collected 21.36 tons of material; that was down from last fall. There was 5.12 tons of scrap metal collected; this was up considerably from last year. Electronic materials totaled 7.57 tons; this was an increase of 13% from last fall. Two additional trucks were provided for document shedding this year. The total number of vehicles was 838; 625 at Johnson Road and 213 at Southern Avenue. The vehicle total was up by 17% compared to last fall. As always, a special note of thanks goes out to all the volunteers for their assistance and the staff of



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815  
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 [www.germantown-tn.gov](http://www.germantown-tn.gov)

Public Works. Cost for processing electronics has gone up and is now approximately \$800 per ton. The scrap metal we collected was sold for approximately \$812. The collection and hauling to the landfill of the 21 tons is included in our contract with Waste Pro. We are looking forward to next year's Amnesty Days, April 21<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Recycle volume is about even compared to first quarter of last year. We now have a full 15 months of collection with Waste Pro, so we can now compare apples to apples with the contractor. Volume is down slightly as far as material going to the landfill, but yard debris is up due to the storms in May and September. Complaints year to date for the first quarter are down 52%.

The South Shelby County Landfill tour went well. Material collection adds 10-12 feet to the landfill daily.

Director Mills: Director Mills shared that this week the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) has been in town; the City of Germantown has applied for a level 4 excellence. This is part of the Malcolm Baldrige Program, but the TNCPE covers the State of Tennessee. Germantown has been a level 3 city for a number of years and we applied back in June to be a level 4 city. The evaluation team was here this week for their assessment. We are hoping for a good report but we're sure opportunities for improvement will be presented to us as well; we are striving to show the City's excellence and top quality day in and day out. Director Mills shared that he is proud of the work we have done as a team at Public Works and the City as a whole to prepare for the evaluation team. We were ready to meet their needs and answer their questions as presented. It is exciting, and in a few months we will know if we are a level 4 city. Level 4 is the highest level and no other City in Tennessee is a level 4. It would be a feather in the cap for Germantown. We also knocked the triple "A" Bond Rating out of the park when it was reaffirmed; we really excelled!

Director Mills shared that we are getting ready to bid our landscape management contract back out for all the City's properties; the grass around our buildings, the medians, the seasonal flowers we plant and replant for color and beauty in the City. If any Commission Members or their neighbors have suggestions, now is a good time to present them for our work plan as we get ready to bid out this contract. Over a half million dollars a year is spent on this contract. The City decided in 2008 that it was more cost effective to contract out the landscaping service than to provide the service in-house. LSG has been our contractor for a number of years. Included in this contract is fertilization, herbicide application, all the bed maintenance and mulching, and weekly cutting of City facilities and right of ways. The new contract will start late March 2018 and will be a multi-year contract.

Director Mills shared that the municipalities of Shelby County, as water suppliers, met with the Ground Water Institute to discuss how we maintain and care for our aquifer. We are looking to do more than we are doing now; more studies, more surveys, more age dating, more window defining. Germantown spends approximately \$60,000 a year on the aquifer through USGS, CAESER, TDEC, and our individual care and maintenance. All the county municipalities, including MLGW, are working corporately toward an aquifer management plan. One suggestion is to add a few cents to water bills in the next year to be dedicated to



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815  
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 www.germantown-tn.gov

aquifer maintenance. All the municipalities can initiate this fee at the same time and all together try to do a better job of maintaining our aquifer. It's about sustainability.

Director Mills announced that the Youth Education Pond (YEP) opens this Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Rotary Club and City of Germantown and several other partners have been a large part of developing this pond. It is an environmental thing too. It will give kids, especially handicapped and disabled kids, a chance to get on the water's edge, see live fish and do some fishing.

The Oktoberfest will be November 4<sup>th</sup>, to benefit the Germantown Education Foundation and help make our schools the best they can be. This is a huge fundraiser for our schools. It is going to be a big party with the feel of the Germantown Festival. There will be activities for the entire family.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dr. Jimmy Davis: Dr. Davis wanted to share that he was proud to volunteer on Amnesty Day.

Scott Schoefnacker: Mr. Schoefnacker shared that he worked with TVA last month and that report should be out by the end of the month. Ground Water Quality Control Board is continuing to revise their well regulations; the next meetings are scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm – 5 pm at the City of Bartlett.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann shared an article in the newspaper reporting a link between aluminum and Alzheimer's. It mentioned that hydroxide, sulfate and chloride are used in water treatment and wastewater management. Director Mills stated that we don't use those chemicals, but we do use a phosphate in our treatment, sodium hexametaphosphate, which is a coating agent. Many people who have passed away from Alzheimer's have shown large amounts of aluminum in their systems.

Paul Mosteller: No report.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine shared that she read an article about our Anthony German, Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 2017 APWA National Rodeo in Orlando, FL. She also read that there are ditch improvements being made along the Wolf River. We are working with the Corp. of Engineers for those improvements. Director Mills stated that if repairs are on a lateral, the Corp. of Engineers has to approve and work the repairs. Repairs on Lateral F are still in progress and the cost is approximately \$1.8 million for the Corp. of Engineers and \$632,000 for Germantown in this joint effort.

Mrs. Erskine shared that Amnesty Day went great! Code Officer Sandy Hudson placed the signage out early and stayed on top of things in Mr. Nunes absence.

Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld shared that she missed Amnesty Day because she was at the Google, "Take Your Parent to Work Day". There she attended a talk about sustainability; they shared that the cars that drive around and take street views also have air quality monitors. They encourage their employees to



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815  
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 www.germantown-tn.gov

spend 80% on their real jobs and 20% on something they are really interested and not necessarily work related. The people presenting the talk were employees but this was not part of their main job. In the cafeteria, they have a lot of waste and they monitor the disposal of it. The spoons and cups are industrial compostable. The industrial compostables are sent to the city of Mountain Home for disposal. The trash cans have pictures on them to help people know where to put different types of trash.

In one of Mr. Threlkeld's medical magazines there was an article about donating unused medicines of deceased patients. Mr. Threlkeld did this years ago with some of his aids patients. The Church Health Center also does this. Illinois has a program for this service and Tennessee is trying to start a service too.

Mrs. Threlkeld and Mrs. Kaplan went to a "Green Matters" Women's Lunch Group. Tracy Leaks, leader of "Project Green Schools" for Shelby County Schools, was the speaker. The program is geared for students K-12; most of the programs are in the elementary schools. It is based on these energy audit tool kits that cost about \$500 each. They have 60 of them that they acquired through a TVA Grant. There is a light meter in them that measures foot candles and also temperature. They show students where energy is being wasted. The schools also have a "Last Out, Lights Out" program, have taken out light bulbs where lower lights are acceptable and they unplug things that continue to draw energy when not in use. The schools let students give tickets to teachers for energy violations. The program saves the school system money too. The poverty level is very high in Shelby County Schools; people who are low income can spend over 13% of their income on energy. Anything the children can learn at school and then take home to save energy is good. Shelby County Schools are definitely seeing an improvement in energy consumption. Mr. Nunes added that he is trying to get more information on the program. He wants to speak with Germantown Municipal Schools, along with "Clean Memphis" about possibly implementing a program in Germantown. Mr. Nunes spoke with the facilities person with Germantown Municipal Schools about current recycling; recycling is available.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission Dinner is November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Invitations will be mailed to Commission Members. A basket will be compiled for the auction and proceeds will go to the Germantown Education Foundation. Commission members suggested doing a food theme again.

Commission Reappointments are online due by November 30.

Susan and Michael Threlkeld will entertain at our December 7<sup>th</sup> Holiday Meeting.

Leslie Acerra will conduct the November Commission Meeting in Director Mills and Kathy Cross' absences.

#### ADJOURNMENT:



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN

---

## TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815  
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 [www.germantown-tn.gov](http://www.germantown-tn.gov)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.