



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, January 4, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Urania Erskine
Kevin Haley
Linda Kaplan
Scott Schoefernacker
Jayu Wagh

Staff:

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes
Kathy Cross
Andrew Sanders

Absent:

Jimmy Davis
Andy Foster
Francoise Mireles
Susan Threlkeld
Alderman Dean Massey

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Skelley gave the floor to Kevin Haley, a new Environmental Commission Member, to introduce himself. Mr. Haley moved to Germantown in the past two years to be closer to his wife's family. Mr. Haley's son attends Farmington Elementary. Mr. Haley was formerly a professional guitarist but now edits movie trailers along with his wife.

Director Mills introduced Andy Sanders, our newest Public Works employee. Mr. Sanders has filled the position formerly held by Danny Hutcheson, Assistant Director of Utilities. Mr. Sanders shared that he came to Germantown from Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he was previously employed. Andy and his family moved here to be closer to his wife's family who are lifelong Germantown residents. His father-in-law, Dr. Bubba Edwards, is a pediatrician at Pediatrics East here in the City on Exeter Road. Andy shared that his family



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wants to be invested in their community; they would like to live, work and worship in the same place. Mr. Sanders is happy to be here and excited to be at the Commission meeting tonight. Director Mills shared that Andy has been with us about seven weeks, doing a fantastic job and we are excited to have him on board. Andy is a licensed professional engineer, a skill that will be greatly utilized in Public Works.

Returning Environmental Commission members introduced themselves and shared a brief background about themselves with Mr. Haley and Mr. Sanders.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Skelley asked Director Mills to handout and go over the “Opens Meetings Law” information as well as the “Code of Ethical Conduct for Officials of the City of Germantown”. Director Mills advised Commission Members of the contents of these two documents and asked members to sign the “Code of Ethics Acknowledgement”. The Acknowledgment Form is to be turned in to Kathy Cross for Administration’s records.

STAFF REPORTS:

Director Bo Mills:

Director Mills shared that while serving in the capacity of the APWA President, he had an opportunity to be in Southern California for seven days during the recent fires. Director Mills was in L.A. County and Ventura County; the public officials in Ventura County invited Director Mills to accompany them to the front lines of the fire. He shared he was with the fire chief, the emergency management director and the public works director in a four wheel drive as they went to the frontlines of the fire. Mr. Mills watched as officials planned their strategy for battling the fires. Bo shared that he has seen a couple tornados in our City over the years but has never seen anything like this; entire rows of trees were exploding simultaneously as fire jumped from one to the next as winds blew the flames. A subdivision they visited that consisted of 80 homes had 60 homes burn in the fires. The only remains of these homes that you could see were steel items such as refrigerators, washers and dryers, or safes. There were National Guards at the entrance of the subdivisions for protection. It was exciting to see how the public works department worked to mitigate and work with traffic control. They had to shore up soil because all the vegetation is gone and only exposed soil remains; when the rain comes, all the soil will be coming down the mountain. When asked, the fire chief said he made the decision to evacuate after speaking to adjacent counties where it originated from and where it was headed. He drove to the coast and looked back at the mountain; he could see a rim of glow over mountain. The Chief called the mayor and emergency management director and told them they should evacuate now. That is the only thing that saved them. There were two fatalities: a lady who crashed her car coming down the mountain and a volunteer firefighter. Lots of pets, horses and wild animals were lost but only two people. It was quite an experience.



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Joe Nunes:

Mr. Nunes shared an update of the household waste and recyclable numbers. Recycle volume is down slightly, approximately 4% year to date for the first six months of the fiscal year. Household waste is down about 1.5%; however our yard waste volume is through the roof, up 33% year to date. Mr. Nunes shared that he is working on the electronic recycling for Amnesty Day. In the last two years there has been an increase of 112% in the cost of processing that material. We are trying to find the best price for the City. Last year, 2016, was a tough year for recycling commodities; the average processing fee for the year was approximately \$42 a ton. In 2017, we were down to about \$27.84 a ton. In the fourth quarter, because of Chinese National Sword, processors here have stockpiled materials. We have seen a jump back up to \$41.68 a ton for the fourth quarter. We are expecting that pricing to continue in the short foreseeable future; dire things are happening in the recycling market right now. Our processor, Republic Services, is still taking a wait and see attitude, although one of their companies in Boise, ID has banned plastics 3-7, all they are accepting is 1 or 2. Also, there is a quarterly meeting of the Shelby County Municipal Solid Waste Regional Board at 2 p.m., January 25th at Shelby County Roads and Bridges near the Penal Farm; Joe Nunes is Chairman.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Urania Erskine:

Mrs. Erskine shared an article from "go! GERMANTOWN" Magazine, featuring our own Joe Nunes. The article is good education for all our citizens and it is presented in an easy to understand manor and is very useful. It shares ways to keep trash out of landfills.

Mrs. Erskine has read that locally, trees are being planted in medians and engineers are trying to reestablish the natural paths of waterways to stop erosion.

Scott Schoefernacker:

Mr. Schoefernacker shared that last month MLGW went before the City Council to ask for a \$.18 rate hike in water to raise a million dollars a year for aquifer study. The study would cover MLGW's coverage area, which is most of Shelby County. Scott attended several City Council meetings where the vote went back and forth, but the proposal failed. It will return to the council next month for additional action.

Linda Kaplan:

Mrs. Kaplan shared that while growing up, her family had limited resources for meat. The family killed one calf a year and that is all they had; they didn't get meat with every meal. Mrs. Kaplan has children who are vegetarian, so if they eat meat, it is "faux" meat. Linda read an excerpt from "Six Ways We Can Adapt to Climate Change", an article in the New York Times:



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THE NEW AGE OF MEAT: NO ANIMAL REQUIRED as shared by Mrs. Kaplan.

“The warming influence of greenhouse gases surged 40 percent between 1990 and 2016, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Scientists have long warned that livestock, particularly cows, are a major source of these emissions — and around the world, people are eating more and more meat. To help reduce our growing environmental footprint, some entrepreneurs are experimenting with new plant-based alternatives that look and taste like meat. [Ethan Brown](#), founder and chief executive of Beyond Meat, discussed his California-based company’s efforts to replicate meat in the lab:

I started this business with the goal of perfectly creating a piece of meat, in both taste and appearance, using only plants. This is possible because all of the elements of meat — amino acids, lipids, minerals and water — can be sourced outside an animal. We know the makeup of meat, so we optimized a method that heats, cools and applies pressure to plant protein, creating the fibrous texture of muscle.

To match the flavor and smell of meat, we’ve isolated molecules that contribute to these attributes. We then try to identify the same ones in plants. Every year, we make progress toward an exact match. The Beyond Burger, which we released in 2016, is the closest we’ve come so far. It looks, sizzles and even “bleeds” like ground beef. What you put at the center of your plate has the power to mitigate climate change. I want to give people more choices, to make that decision easier.”

So, it is hard to see beyond the use of meat, but is done by a lot of people.

Jayu Wagh:

Mrs. Wagh shared an article about recycling plastics into clothing.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Skelley shared that with the New Year, members can change their subjects of interest that they would like to report on. Kathy Cross will try to find a list of the current topics members have chosen and distribute it. Joe Nunes will be looking into a tour of ReCommunity’s material recycling facility.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.