

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
June 4, 2009 6 PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Tim Sauter
David Thorpe
Susan Threlkeld

Linda Kaplan
Andy Foster
Clyde Davidson
Alderman Palazzolo

Staff

Bo Mills
Juanita Bell
Joe Nunes
Tim Bierdz

Absent: Brandy Miller, Jimmy Davis, and Craig Lazarov

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. A quorum was declared present.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Commission were unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills:

- Mr. Mills reported that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Supply state inspector has been in town for the past two days. The inspector will be scoring Germantown's Water Plants and we will receive scores soon by mail.
- Since the Commission's last meeting, the Water Department has gotten a price for the repair of well #5 which is located at the Southern Avenue Water Plant and is a 1600 gallon per minute well. The well had begun pulling sand and seashells and necessary repairs will be \$120,000. The well should be back in service by the first of July. We have already had a day of 10 million gallons usage. We can support 17 to 18 million gallons usage per day between pumping and storage for a short period. The Plant Expansion is progressing and we are currently using the reservoir. Two of the three newly drilled wells are now online and pumping water.
- The Grounds Division has been preparing for the Fishing Rodeo which will take place this weekend at Johnson Road Park. All are invited to attend.
- Mr. Mills thanked the Commission for attending the Public Services luncheon during National Public Works Week.

Joe Nunes:

- Mr. Nunes reported that recycling volume is down slightly from this time last year. Our collection volume for the year is 2,477 tons so far and volume for this month is down about 10%. Our average tons per day is also down from last year. Fiber is where the decrease is taking place and co-mingled is actually up 9.3%. Next month Joe will present the new solid waste brochure to the Commission which will be sent out in July or August via water bills.
Alderman Palazzolo asked Mr. Nunes if he had received any feedback from contractors about whether residents were recycling correctly.
Mr. Nunes responded that he had not received any feedback but during random inspections, residents are not doing well.

Tim Bierdz:

- Mr. Bierdz updated the Commission on the storm water fee. He is currently still analyzing the impervious areas to get random sample for user fees. The goal for implementing this fee is January 2010. There will be a meeting in July with the Finance Administration.
- There will be a Town Hall meeting in July to discuss drainage and storm water management.
- The EPA is considering having municipalities do mandatory turbidity testing on construction and development sites as well as monitoring samples from streams for chemicals. This testing, if passed, would go into effect in March 2010. TDOT is opposing the turbidity test because they have multiple issues with the accuracy of the test.
Susan Threlkeld inquired if residents will be allowed credits for efforts to conserve. It is currently being discussed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Linda Kaplan – Think Green:

- Ms. Kaplan discussed “Story of Stuff” and “Independent Bank” articles that were found in the Commercial Appeal. Linda met with the Vice President of Independent Bank and opened an account to support their goals.
- Ms. Kaplan announced an interesting bike ride at the Greenway for anyone wanting to ride a one, twenty, thirty or fifty mile bike ride. Registration online of 7:30 a.m. the day of the event.
- Ms. Kaplan and Mr. Wolf, Vice President and Branch Manager of Independent Bank, invites the Commission to join the U.S. Green Build Counsel for a reception and open house at Independent Bank on July 7th.

Andy Foster – Energy Use Resource Management:

- Ford has introduced a 65 miles per gallon car in Europe. It has not been introduced in America because it is run on diesel and America has such a poor perception of diesel oil. Because pollution laws are different in Europe, the car would probably lose mpg if brought to the United States.
- Mr. Foster distributed an article urging residents to check aluminum wiring because older or damaged wiring creates a fire hazard. Mr. Davidson advised that you can purchase chemicals to coat the wiring.

Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:

- Ms. Threlkeld discussed an article on compact fluorescent light bulbs called “Spiral, Looped, Enclosed or Reflector: All Are Versions of Compact Fluorescent Lighting”.
- Ms. Threlkeld will be attending a landscape workshop this coming week. Discussion ensued on rain barrels. There is an article in Talk of the Town this month regarding water conservation and recycling. Tim Bierdz will check with local shops to see if anyone stocks rain barrels.
- Ms. Threlkeld suggested a Commission field trip to a house in Germantown that has solar panels. The home is 30 years old.

David Thorpe – Air Quality:

- Mr. Thorpe presented and discussed two articles to the Commission, “Colorado building thousands of ‘net zero’ homes” and “Energy audits now part of home sales”. A Colorado city outside of Denver has built a subdivision called ‘Net Zero’ in which all energy for these homes are generated from solar and wind technologies. The development will be 3800 homes on 500 acres at a cost of \$2 billion. Fort Collins has introduced the first ‘Net Zero’ district. Also, In Austin, TX a new ordinance has taken effect stating that all homes more than 10 years old must have an energy audit. Memphis Light, Gas and Water does have a program where they provide energy audits. The Commission discussed making this program mandatory for Germantown. Mr. Thorpe will research the Austin, TX ordinance and report back to the Commission.

Tim Sauter – Water Conservation:

- Mr. Sauter presented an article to the Commission called “Saving Every Last Drop”. The article discussed the Frito Lay’s factory in Casa Grande, Arizona. This factory is in the final stages of installation on a new water recycling systems which will recycle 85-95% of water.

Sandra Hayne – Neighborhood Preservation Commission:

- Ms. Hayne announced the Neighborhood Preservation Commission is hosting a Day of Caring on September 19th. All the details are still pending but please reserve that date.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Andy Foster updated the Commission on compact fluorescents. The MLGW bulbs that were in question last month have worked fine so far.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Commission cancelled July’s Environmental Commission meeting due to anticipated lack of quorum.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.