



# 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, April 5, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.  
Public Works Building  
7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Andy Foster  
Kevin Haley  
Linda Kaplan  
Francoise Mireles  
Alderman Dean Massey  
Scott Schoefnacker  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh

#### Staff:

Kathy Cross  
Joe Nunes  
Andrew Sanders

#### Absent:

Bo Mills  
Urania Erskine

#### 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.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

We had no guests.

#### COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

#### ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

- Recent Capital Improvement Project meeting discussion included:
  - Sewer upgrades for the development at Kirby Parkway and west of Kirby



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- Proposed water tower in Forest Hill Heights to provide sufficient water pressure for new developments.

## STAFF REPORTS:

Andy Sanders:

Water Update:

- Upgrading hardware and software at both the Southern Avenue and Johnson Road Water Treatment Plants. The installation contract goes before the BMA this coming Monday Evening
- Contract to repair two wells goes before the BMA 4/23: Well #S-3 & Well #JRD-3
  - Well #S-3 is located by the elevated water tower
  - Well #JRD-3 is located behind the JRD Water Treatment Plant by the aeration tanks
- Layne Central is still in the process of treating Well #S-6 at the intersection of Southern Avenue and Poplar Pike
- Water meter change-outs
- Lateral lining of sewer lines where historically infiltration and inflow has taken place

Streets/Drainage Update:

- Our sweeping contractor, Sweeping Corp., is wrapping up the citywide sweep this week
  - They have swept and dumped 700 CY of leaves and sediment which keeps this out of our storm sewer system
- Due to historic rainfall numbers in the month of February, we are still patching around 300 potholes/day

Animal Shelter:

- We recently hired a new Animal Shelter Manager, Sandy Hudson
  - Sandy is one of our own working currently for the City's Economic and Community Development Department as a Code Compliance Officer  
She graduated from Virginia Tech with an Animal and Poultry Sciences degree and worked for over five years as an Animal Control Officer with the City of Chesapeake, VA.

Joe Nunes:

- Recycle volume is holding steady.
- King County, WA, which includes Seattle, has received permission from the county and state to put recycles in the landfill because of the rising processing cost.
- Current recycling cost is at its highest; \$68 a ton to process recyclables compared to \$25 for the landfill. Based on the latest cost the budget will have to be adjusted for FY19.
- Grass-cycling article included in this month's "Talk of the Town" utility bill insert.
- EPA contracted with a company called Re-Trac to enable municipalities to enter data into their system to provide benchmarking among other things. The State of Tennessee currently contracts with Re-Trac.
- Sanitation Worker Appreciation Day date is still tentative.



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- Education and Outreach Grant from the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Board was authorized by Mayor Palazzolo. That contract has been executed for a marketing firm to assist with promotional items and presentations for social media and homeowner associations presenting proper recycling and cart placement information.

## COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Andy Foster:

Federal Express reserved 20 Tesla semi trucks with capability of auto braking and lane excursion. The trucks will be equipped with cameras to enable drivers to have better vision around the perimeter of the truck.

Francoise Mireles:

- Chinese Privet Hedge:
  - From the Olive Family
  - Introduced from China to the U.S. in 1852
  - Population exploded in the 1960's
  - Used in a lot of public land including many military cemeteries in the Southeast U.S. where it has become extremely invasive.
  - Produces many flowers and berries for birds to spread and expand the population; it produces a lot shoots for additional population.
  - Difficult to totally eradicate the plant, but using a mixture of Round-Up and horticultural oil will make the herbicide more active and potent among the plant to help control reproduction.
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)
  - National association that includes students age 15 and up
  - National pools that work on conservation and rebuilding the National Parks in the summer or regional pools that work year round in regional or city parks
  - Help provide volunteer hours for college admission

Linda Kaplan:

The "Down to Earth Festival" takes place this coming weekend at Shelby Farms Park; The Mid-south Auto Club will have various environmental associated cars displayed.

Jayu Wagh:

Make your own fertilizer using banana peels which contain potassium, coffee grounds, and egg shells which contain calcium. You can use cut weeds that haven't flowered as mulch as well as grass clippings.

Jimmy Davis:

"Why Cities are Starting to Shun Sewers"

- Most third world countries can't afford sewer systems



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- Many cities in other countries are going to a system of sanitation stations such as septic tanks where trucks come, pick up the waste and take it to a central location to be processed; it can be turned into composting or fertilizer.
- This practice is catching on in India, Bangladesh, Haiti and many other countries that do not have sewer systems.

Susan Threlkeld:

- Attended the “Green Matters” women’s group which was held at the University of Memphis
  - The Sustainability Manager spoke about the \$10 “green fee” paid by students during the fall and spring semesters. This fee originated in 2007 by an environmental action club to get recycling and renewable energy on campus and was voted on by the Student Government Association.
  - Recycling was brought to the campus but renewable energy was not available.
  - The focus is to benefit students and make a more sustainable campus.
  - Difficult to get funding for programs
  - People are not always available to carry out the programs
  - Sustainability requires training
- Attended the Master Gardener “Spring Fling” at the Agricenter where Sharon Gordon with the Stormwater Group had a booth. She was distributing material about stormwater along with applications for Green Camp to be held at the University of Memphis.

Kevin Haley:

Nothing to report.

Scott Schoefermacker:

- TVA Report regarding Natural Gas Plant
  - Found a connection between the Memphis aquifer and the shallow aquifer
  - TVA will purchase water from MLGW
  - They will build large tanks to store water
- Small Cities Resilience Competition
  - Germantown was one of two finalists
  - Objective is to increase awareness of existing strengths and vulnerabilities and to provide actionable recommendations for improving overall community resilience.
  - Analysis of City’s functions looking at social, economic and government resilience.
  - Recommendations included adding a water tower to the east side of the City, drainage master plan which is currently underway, and sewer line extensions.



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## OLD BUSINESS

Commission members were asked to sign up for Amnesty Day to take place April 21, 2018 from at 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Joe Nunes will provide instruction for those working at Johnson Road Park.

## NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

## ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.