

Germantown Technology Commission Minutes

July 16, 2019

The regular Germantown Technology Commission meeting was held Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Information Technology Training Room at 1930 S. Germantown Rd., Germantown, TN. 38138

Call to order: Commission Chairman John Colmer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Establishment of Quorum – Roll Call: Staff Liaison, Stephanie Logan called the roll and a quorum was established with five members present.

Present: Chairman John Colmer, Gregory Blumenthal, Andy Field, Horace Taylor and Naveen Manga

Non-Voting member: Alderman Scott Sanders

Staff Liaison: Tony Fischer, Director of Information Technology and Stephanie Logan

Absent: Jared Klepko and Joshua Freeman

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Colmer asked if there were any edits to the Minutes from the June 18, 2019 Technology Commission meeting. Hearing no changes, Chairman Colmer asked if there was a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 18, 2019 meeting as presented.

Motion: To approve the Minutes from the June 18, 2019 Technology Commission meeting

Motion by: Gregory Blumenthal

Motion 2nd: Andy Field

Hearing no request for discussion, Chairman Colmer asked for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion passed: Yes- 5; No –0; Abstain – 0

Chairman Colmer noted that there was no specific Agenda for this meeting. Gregory Blumenthal replied to the Chairman's request for agenda topics for this meeting.

A copy of Ordinance No. 2018-9 was distributed and Chairman Comer encouraged Commission members to familiarize themselves with the Ordinance as it will be used as a guide for future meetings. As an example, Chairman Comer asked that a topic for the next meeting be cyber security and the City's stance on the subject.

Technology Incubator:

Chairman Colmer turned the meeting over to Commission member, Gregory Blumenthal, to review a slideshow he assembled for an Alpharetta, Georgia type environment. The presentation included the following.

- Differences on the focus and goals for Germantown VS Memphis
- What is a Tech Incubator
- Why would we want a Tech Incubator
- How would we know if a Tech Incubator is successful once established

Chairman Colmer thanked Commission member Blumenthal for taking time to assemble and present the topic to the Commission. Commission members discussed what would be necessary to consider this type project in Germantown, the businesses that currently are focusing on the topic in the Memphis area, and the level of commitment that would be required. Members suggested that a possible topic for a future meeting would include a visit from Start Co or EPICenter Memphis.

Tony Fischer, Information Technology Director, provided the Commission with a brief overview of the City's experience with the 2016 partnership with Memphis Epicenter. It was suggested that as the Commission moves forward with ideas, the driving direction should be to see how it would fit into the Germantown Forward 2030 Strategic Plan.

Chairman Colmer requested additional one-way data sharing with members prior to the meeting in an effort to be more productive. Any handout information should be sent to Director Fischer for further dissemination to the Commission to ensure compliance with open meeting laws.

Old Business / New Business:

Chairman Colmer asked Commission members if there was any old business. Gregory Blumenthal asked about an update on the Germantown App. Director Fischer reported that the issue with localized alerts had been resolved and that work continues with the vendor to speed up community-wide alerts. He also added that an additional category had been added to the "Report an Issue" selection based on app feedback. Commission members suggested that additional information would be appreciated when responding to issues submitted through the app.

Commission members also asked how the City advertises new technology with the community. Director Fischer briefly reviewed the various ways new technology is shared with the public sighting specific examples as reference.

Next Meeting:

Next Technology Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Information Technology Training Room.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.