



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, August 8, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. Public Works Building 7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Alderman Rocky Janda
Linda Kaplan
Francoise Mireles
Scott Schoefernacker
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

Staff:

Director Bo Mills
Joe Nunes

Absent:

Urania Erskine
Andy Foster
Paul Mosteller

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

No guests were present.

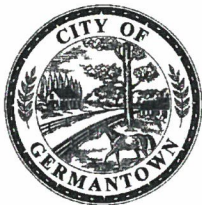
CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

Alderman Janda updated the commission on the progress with the former Germantown Country Club.



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STAFF REPORTS:

Director Mills:

- Kimbrough sewer collapse continues; The City's work is basically complete but Memphis' work continues in order to bring the pump station back online.
- Director Mills reviewed his role in MLGW's Power Supply Advisory Team (PSAT). The recommendations from this team will be used by Director Young in his recommendation to the Memphis City Council. This will result in MLGW staying with TVA for our electric power supply or it will direct the utility to look to other sources such as MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) power.

Joe Nunes:

- Yard waste is down 14%; Household trash is up 170 tons from July 2018.
- Plans to discuss with Waste Pro 25% reduction of recycle collection over July of 2018; approximately 46 tons less per month.
- Sierra Club's monthly meeting is August 15 at the Central Library in Memphis at 6 p.m.
- Confirmed that recycle contractors and Habitat for Humanity are ready for Amnesty Day on September 21st.
- Discussed how to best organize traffic at Johnson Road Park on Amnesty Day.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Scott Schoefernacker:

A research chemist with the U.S. Geological Survey made a surprising discovery while studying nitrogen deposition in Rocky Mountain National Park; found microplastics pollution in rainwater samples taken at 10,000 feet.

Jayu Wagh:

- Article from Smart Cities Dive website: Research on decomposing batteries stalled due to low their low power density. As a result, research shifted to a "hybrid", a small lithium-ion battery capable of delivering 2.5 volts of power that will also dissolve in water within 30 minutes.
- Article from Science Daily: Plastic waste that finds its way into oceans and rivers poses a global environmental threat with damaging health consequences for animals, humans, and ecosystems. Now, using tiny coil-shaped carbon-based magnets, researchers in Australia have developed a new approach to purging water sources of the microplastics that pollute them without harming nearby microorganisms. Their work appears July 31 in the journal *Matter*.
- Netherlands practicing water management and using advanced agriculture technology with the first floating Dairy Barge.



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Jimmy Davis:

Nothing to report.

Linda Kaplan:

Article from the Washington Post: Teaching Global Warming in a Political Climate A goal was to give students the knowledge to debunk the argument often made by climate change deniers that a few frigid days disprove climate change; even in a warming climate, there will still be many cold days. Schools across the United States are wrestling with how to incorporate the study of climate change into the classroom as its proximity and perils grow ever more apparent. Teaching about climate change got a boost six years ago with the release of the Next Generation Science Standards, which instruct teachers to introduce students to climate change and its human causes beginning in middle school. To date, 20 states plus the District have adopted the standards, and many other states have embraced a modified version. All told, 37 states and the District recognize human-caused climate change in their science standards, says the National Center for Science Education.

Francois Mireles:

Article from the Washington Post: Changing Climate Imperils Global Food and Water Supplies, New U.N. Study Finds The world cannot avoid the worst impacts of climate change without making serious changes to the ways humans grow food, raise livestock and manage forests according to an international group of scientists. The report from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) examines how land use around the world contributes to the warming of Earth's atmosphere. The report details how climate change is already threatening food and water supplies for humans.

Susan Threlkeld:

Pantry Challenge – Challenge yourself to use up what you have before buying more food; Waste less food, spend less time shopping, save money by not over buying and be a better steward of your kitchen resources.

Urania Erskine:

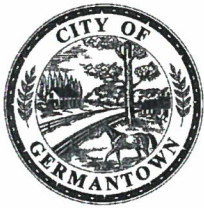
Midtown Farmers' Market vendors offer fresh tilapia in the tank as well as a large variety of vegetables.

OLD BUSINESS:

Amnesty day is Saturday, September 21st from 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Skelley reminded the commission that there would be no regular commission meeting in September as the commission will support the Amnesty Dumpster Day event.



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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion from Chairman Skelley at 7:00 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman