

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, February 13, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building
7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Alderman Rocky Janda
Claudio Meier
Francoise Mireles
Paul Mosteller
Scott Schoefernacker
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

Staff:

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes
Kathy Cross

Absent:

Linda Kaplan

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:

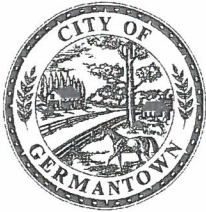
A motion was made by Urania Erskine to approve the January Minutes; Second by Paul Mosteller. The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

Alderman Rocky Janda:

- Forming a recycling sub-committee composed of the Mayor, Administration, the Financial Advisory Commission, Joe Nunes, Neighborhood Services Manager, & Environmental Commission members to look at alternative ways to recycle or add additional funds to the budget. Germantown



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spent \$210K on recycling in FY19 and the forecast doesn't see costs going in a positive direction in the next five years. Joe Nunes suggested to conduct a more thorough survey of our residents and what their needs and wants are concerning recycling.

STAFF REPORTS:

Director Bo Mills:

- The subject of Fluoride in our water supply came up in the January 27th BMA meeting. The question was posed if the City wants to keep fluoride in their water. Director Mills wanted the Commission to be aware of the discussion.
- Dogwood Road rehabilitation from Kimbrough Road to Cordes Road will start following this school year; Rehabilitation work will continue eastward if funding is available.
- Today's Commercial Appeal published an article about Germantown's Elevated Water Tower.

Joe Nunes:

- Attended the "Keep America Beautiful" National Conference this week. On Tuesday the "National Recycling Market Development Workshop" was held and people across the country shared ideas about recycling.
- Recycling volume increase last month; Household and yard waste are about the same.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Claudio Meier:

- Commissioner Meier introduced himself to the Commission.
- Shelby County made a motion to ask the Mayor and Council to consider hybrid or electric vehicles for their upcoming purchase of 63 new vehicles.

Jayu Wagh:

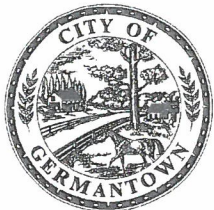
- "Committing 100% Renewable Energy" – Compared to last year, the number of states pledged to power their electric grids with 100% clean energy has tripled. California and Hawaii, the first two states to pledge, have now been joined by Maine, New Mexico, Washington and New York.
- Connecticut, Maine, New York, Oregon and Vermont all banned single-use plastic bags this year, joining California. Maine and Maryland became the first states to prohibit single-use polystyrene foam containers last spring.

Paul Mosteller:

- In 2019, the U.S. led the world in the reductions of CO2 emissions; overall in the world, the emissions increased.

Urania Erskine:

- Two young men in Scotland went to work on a service project in India with trash pickers working in landfills. They observed the trash pickers picking up certain types of plastics, placing them in potholes, pouring gasoline on them and setting them on fire. The plastics melted creating a short



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term fix for potholes. The young men then returned to Scotland and started a company called McRebur where a plastic pothole repair product, which includes an element of otherwise non-recyclable polymer, is manufactured.

Jimmy Davis:

- January 20th article in BBC states that China, one of the biggest users of plastics, will reduce single-use plastics across the country. Single-use non-degradable bags will be banned in major cities by the end of 2020 and in all cities and towns by 2022. Single-use plastic straws in the restaurant industry will be banned by the end of 2020. The country's largest landfill is the size of around 100 football fields and is already full, 25 years ahead of schedule. In 2017 alone, China collected 215 million tons of urban household waste. China produced 60 million tons of plastic waste in 2010, followed by the US at 38 million tons.

Scott Schoefnacker:

- TDEC has appropriated money to help subsidize recycling costs. Germantown could possibly obtain rebate money to help our efforts to improve the city's recycling. Rebates may be used for a variety of recycling purposes such as establishing new programs or collection sites; preparing recovered materials for transport and marketing; identifying markets for recovered materials; and developing educational programs for adults and children to help them understand solid waste issues, management options, costs and the value of waste reduction and recycling efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman