

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, June 11, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Virtual Conference

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Urania Erskine
Alderman Rocky Janda
Claudio Meier
Paul Mosteller
Scott Schoefnacker
Susan Threlkeld

Staff:

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes

Absent:

Jimmy Davis
Francoise Mireles
Jayu Wagh

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 from the February 13, 2020 meeting were approved. A motion was made by Scott Schoefnacker and seconded by Urania Erskine.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR:

Director Mills read the "Notice Regarding Electronic Meetings" statement.

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

No report.



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STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

- Spike in solid waste volume due to the stay at home order. In March and April solid waste was up 38% compared to previous March and April, which brings our year-to-date volume up by 13%. May is up only 13% from last May.
- Yard debris increased 31% this April compared to last year posing challenges for Waste Pro from a collection standpoint.
- Recycling volume increased in May 15% but we are down approximately 6% year to date.

Director Mills:

- Public Works has continued to serve the community during the COVID pandemic. We implemented a rotation schedule for approximately six weeks to limit exposure to the virus in the department. We are now full staff with Administration's approval in order to meet service demands. We have not had any infection in the department. Crews are practicing social distancing by limiting the number of staff to two in each truck as well as using hand sanitizer and wearing facial masks to protect each other.
- During this period, we have been able to do some projects while traffic volume was down that we hadn't been able to address.
- Served on the Memphis Light Gas and Water Power Supply Advisory Team for the last year. The final report is now available online at MLGW.org. The best interest of all MLGW customers is at hand and Director Young will make a recommendation that will be best for the long term for our communities.

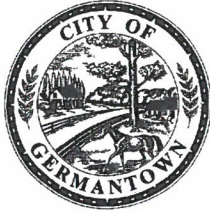
COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Claudio Meier:

- Several days ago, CO2 levels were recorded at 418 ppm in Hawaii, which is the highest ever recorded. This is exactly 50% more than the pre-industrial revolution levels of CO2 in the atmosphere.
- Attended the virtual meeting with the MLGW Power Supply Advisory Team; it is clear that if we tie ourselves with TVA to receive the small discount they are offering, we have to give a 20 year notice before we can withdraw from that program. With TVA, a lot of the energy that we would be buying in the next 20-25 years would be fossil fuels, where if we go to a combination of local generation, there is a much higher chance of renewables being a larger and increasing part in the near future of the energy we consume here in the future.

Scott Schoefernacker:

- In early March, Carrier withdrew their permits for the injection wells at their facilities.
- CAESER installed two observation wells along the Germantown Greenway in May. Water levels will be monitored in both the shallow aquifer and the Memphis Aquifer. Correlation between the aquifer levels and the Wolf River stages will be studied to see if there is a connection between the two.



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Linda Kaplan:

- Quoting an article in the Guardian: "Beer and soft drinks could soon be sipped from "all-plant" bottles under new plans to turn sustainably grown crops into plastic in partnership with major beverage makers. A biochemicals company in the Netherlands hopes to kickstart investment in a pioneering project that hopes to make plastics from plant sugars rather than fossil fuels. The bio-refinery plans to break down sustainable plant sugars into simple chemical structures that can then be rearranged to form a new plant-based plastic – which could appear on supermarket shelves by 2023."

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Amnesty Dumpster Day in September will be rescheduled; October 24th is the tentative date.

ADJOURNMENT:

Susan Threlkeld made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Urania Erskine. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman