

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
June 2, 2011 6 PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
Brandy Miller
Linda Kaplan
Dr. Jimmy Davis

Clyde Davidson
Moya Fulbright-Dent
Urania Erskine
Alderman Palazzolo

Staff

Joe Nunes
Bo Mills
Juanita Bell

Absent: Andy Foster, David Thorpe

CALL TO ORDER:

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

The Commission welcomes our regular guest, Ken Adams.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the May2011 meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills:

Mr. Mills invited the Commission to the second reading of the City's budget at the Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting on Monday, June 13th. There is a proposed \$.15 tax increase. Citizens are encouraged to speak up and voice their opinions.

Mr. Mills reported that the Greenway clearing continues. It has been opened back up and is usable and ready for the upcoming Cycle the Greenway event.

Mr. Mills thanked the Commission members for attending Public Works annual cook-out to celebrate Public Works Week. Ms. Miller also thanked Public Works for inviting Leadership Germantown.

Dr. Davis inquired as to why crews were cutting trees along Exeter. Mr. Mills explained that it was part of the widening of Poplar.

Joe Nunes:

Mr. Nunes reported that the Solid Waste Collection cards were still coming in and being processed. There were some concerns about the short deadlines on returning the cards but it has worked out pretty well. Four to five thousand people have responded so far and of that number, 80% want recycling and almost 70% want curbside. Dr. Davis inquired as to whether limbs and debris would be picked up as usual and Mr. Nunes said there would be no change with that system.

Mr. Nunes reported that volume year to date was pretty even with last year. The City Administrator, Patrick Lawton, has challenged this number to increase by 10% in 2012. The amount per collection date is rising.

Mr. Nunes reported that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved the contract with Advanced Disposal which acquired Allied Waste. On May 3, 2011, Advanced Disposal sold their Memphis operation to Republic Service which acquired Allied Services and B.F.I. So, we're back with B.F.I. The agenda for the June 13th BMA meeting will be the consent of the City to turn the contract over from Advanced Disposal to Republic Services.

Ms. Threlkeld inquired where yard debris is currently being taken and Mr. Nunes explained that until July 1, 2011, all yard debris would be taken to the Agricenter. After July 1, 2011, yard debris will be going to South Shelby Landfill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Brandy Miller – Education:

Ms. Miller had nothing to report.

Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:

Ms. Threlkeld had nothing to report.

Linda Kaplan – Think Green:

Ms. Kaplan reported Green Turbine, a Memphis based start-up, was awarded a total of \$35,000 from the state for designing an engine turbine capable of producing electricity when submerged in rivers or oceanic streams. They had a demo model at the Eco Expo this year and also demonstrating at a local school. One of the gentlemen that was a part of this is a professor at University of Memphis. We now have another solar manufacturer in Senatobia, MS. They began working on May 11, 2011 and is called Twin Creeks Technologies.

Ms. Kaplan reported that she has ordered her Nissan Leaf Electric car and it should be in June 9th. She has the installation of the charger at her home and is awaiting delivery. Forty to fifty businesses are having these chargers installed as well. Discussion ensued on how the electricity would be created.

Jimmy Davis – Research:

Mr. Davis reported on the E-Coli outbreak in Germany, Europe, Sweden, England and Spain. This E-Coli strain is a whole new type that has never been seen before and very resistant to everything. It has a special protein structure that allows it to attach to the inside of your intestines and the lettuce leaves they're consuming. The origins are unknown. The majority of the cases are in Germany. Europe has more stringent laws than we do on agricultural products so it's surprising that this outbreak has taken over like it has and hasn't been able to be tracked.

Mr. Davis reported that there was another explosion at a nuclear power plant in Japan this week. Not much news release but it continues to go on. There is a group of 200-300 - 70+ aged scientists that have volunteered to go in and assist since the radiation won't affect them as much in their life span.

Clyde Davidson – Storm/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Mr. Davidson had nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Skelley inquired of the Commission whether there would be any problems attending the July Commission meeting due to the fact that it is so close to the holiday. It was agreed that most could attend so the meeting will remain scheduled

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m.