

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, July 09, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Virtual Conference

MINUTES

Present:

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

Staff:

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes

Absent:

Claudio Meier
Francoise Mireles

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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Carol Dickinson Russell liaison from the Neighborhood Preservation Commission joined the meeting.

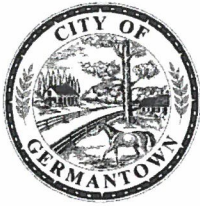
CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the June 11, 2020 meeting were approved. A motion was made by Urania Erskine and seconded by Paul Mosteller to accept the minutes.

ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

Alderman Rocky Janda:

- In July, Mayor Pallazzolo's sustainability events included joining the "Home Food Waste Challenge". Forty percent of the food grown and produced in Memphis is wasted. Only 38% of the food that hits the landfill is from our kitchens. Soon a new "901 - Save the Food Program" will begin and might be something the commission wants to support. Alderman Janda will look into the new program as more details become available.



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STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

- End of Fiscal Year 2020 numbers are much the same as last year. Household trash was down about .3% which equates to 13,158 tons or slightly less than 1 ton per household. Yard debris was down about 4% at 12,562 tons or approximately .9 ton per household. Recycling was down about 4% as well at 2,306 tons.
- Amnesty Day is tentatively scheduled for September 26th, 2020. Habitat for Humanity will not be participating at this event.

Director Mills:

- Director Mills read the "Notice Regarding Electronic Meetings" statement.
- Typically July 1st is the beginning of our fiscal year as a governing body; Due to the lack of good revenue projections, the Board took action in June to approve a "continuing resolution" to the FY 20 Budget. The next few months will be typical budgets basically taking care of infrastructure, paying salaries, and "keeping the lights on". The Board and Financial Advisory Committee are taking advisement on a FY 21 Budget that will probably begin in September and carry us forward. This will most likely be a conservative budget to protect our City during this time. State funded projects will continue as well as some ADA required projects; A few infrastructure replacement projects that are absolutely necessary will go forward as well.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Linda Kaplan:

- Article from the Commercial Appeal Lessons for Memphis in Paducah's Exit from TVA " A 2018 study by energy consulting firm Enervision said TVA averaged 28% more than the average rates of the 11 largest utilities in the Southeast."
- Article from Sierra Club's Magazine Battle of the Burgers. *Sierra* compared the greenhouse gas emissions, land and water footprints as well as how much different types of burgers were processed and contained genetically modified ingredients.

Jayu Wagh:

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, plastic use has increased in India and other areas.

Paul Mosteller:

- Paul Shellenberger published an article in Forbes Magazine On Behalf Of Environmentalists, I Apologize for the Climate Scare. Mr. Mosteller will provide this article for distribution to Commission members for discussion at next month's meeting.

Urania Erskine:

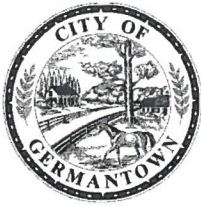
- Nothing to report.

Susan Threlkeld:

- Daily Memphian Article: Sheep Help Land, Modern Technology Coexist at Area Solar Farm. A solar farm in Millington is the State's largest solar farm. Large flocks of sheep are rotated between the sites at the farm to graze and maintain vegetation.

Jimmy Davis:

- Windex bottles are now made from recycled ocean plastic.



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- The 50th Anniversary of Earth Day edition of National Geographic Magazine edition was titled: EARTH DAY - Fifty years ago we celebrated the first Earth Day. Where will we be 50 years from now? One article was written about a trip cross country in electric cars. We Took the Great American Road Trip – in electric cars. A cross country journey in electric cars reveals how alternative energy sources could help power us into a sustainable future. Another article in this volume of the magazine shared how Texas will soon be the #1 producer of wind power in the United States. All of Texas' wind power has already been contracted to power Exxon's fracking.

Scott Schoefernacker:

- Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Amnesty Day will take place on September 26, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jimmy Davis made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Linda Kaplan. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman