



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, January 14, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Conference

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Terri Johnson
Alderman McCreery
Claudio Meier
Francoise Mireles
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

Staff:

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes

ABSENT

Scott Schoefernacker

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.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NECESSITY OF CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

The following motion was made by Susan Threlkeld and seconded Jayu Wagh:

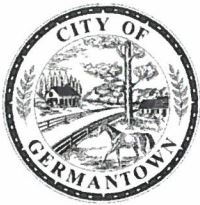
The members of the Environmental Commission will meet by electronic means to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

ROLL CALL: Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Johnson-yes, Meier-yes, Mireles-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Wagh-yes
Motion approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the November 12, 2020 meeting by Chairman Skelley and seconded by Susan Threlkeld.

ROLL CALL: Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Meier-yes, Mireles-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Wagh-yes
Motion approved.



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Director Bo Mills – Vision, Values, Mission and Code of Ethics

- Community Vision - Forward 2030
 - Community of Choice
 - Provide Outstanding Quality of Life
 - Be a Physically Sound City
 - Have Top Quality Public Safety
 - Be Very Responsive to Community Needs
- Workforce Values:
 - Lead Responsibly
 - Deliver Service Excellence
 - Produce A+ Results
- Our City's mission is "Excellence. Every day."
- Code of Ethical Conduct for Officials of the City of Germantown – please review and return the last page to Kathy Cross or Michele Betty.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS, ALDERMAN AND STAFF

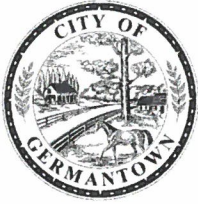
STAFF REPORTS:

Director Bo Mills:

- In meeting the needs of the COVID Virus, medical needs and vaccination needs, our mayor is promoting and looking for volunteers to be a part of a medical professional and non-medical responders group. Tennessee Medical Reserve Corp is about sharing the need and the opportunity to fill a need. The Medical Reserve Corp has a category for medical and non-medical volunteers and could be mobilized in any emergency, disaster or pandemic if the need were to arise.
<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/cedep-emergency-preparedness/volunteer-mobilizer.html>
- Public Works is still taking care of the Public Works needs of the City. Some staff is on alternate schedules on-site while others are working from home in efforts to protect staff from the virus and protect our ability to provide services that are critical to our city. Our department has done very well protecting each other. Assurance Testing will begin next week on a volunteer basis for staff to assure we are continuing COVID free due to asymptomatic cases of the virus.

Joe Nunes:

- Household waste volume is up fiscal year to date about 40%. This is much higher than neighboring municipalities, partially caused by the reduction of yard debris collection dropping 29% due to our contractor mixing household waste and yard debris.
- Recycling volume is down about 10% from last year.
- Mr. Nunes is the chairman of the Shelby County Municipal Solid Waste Regional Board who meets in January to prepare the annual progress report to submit to the State of Tennessee about a wide range of numbers, volumes and various programs taking place.
- Scheduled Amnesty Days for 2021 are April 17th and Sept 18th.



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COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Jimmy Davis:

- Article from Chemical & Engineering News: Smoke's Particle Size is Key to its Health Consequences. What kind of smoke is harmful? The key is how many types of particles are in the air: fewer particles are good; many particles are hazardous. It's found that no matter the origin, the smaller the particle the worse it is. Wildfires, such as the ones that occurred out west this summer, produce small particles that have potential for health effects and are worse than mechanical things such as road dust and sandstorms.
- Article "Why is the flu worse in the winter than in the summer?" There is an outer shell around the flu that becomes more rigid and harder to break down with colder weather allowing it to travel through the air from person to another; once ingested, the shell softens allowing the virus to affect your body.

Jayu Wagh:

- Shark Tank featured a company that will deliver a live Christmas tree in a pot that can be rented and then picked up after the holiday season is over; you can reserve the same tree yearly if you desire. The service avoids cutting the trees and eliminates waste.

Francoise Mireles:

- The United Nation and the Fruit and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO) have declared 2021 the year of the Fruits and Vegetables in the world. Our COVID Crisis highlighted the lack of resilience in our food system and food production. In the spring a lot of fruits and vegetables went to waste because the supply chain was not adapted to people staying at home. The change of our climate and rising temperature we will need to create new varieties of fruits and vegetables that can grow in the new climate.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Director Mills: Commission direction for the upcoming year and the Commission 2021 Work Plan. Members are encouraged to submit topics they would like to explore in the upcoming year to include in this year's work plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn by Susan Threlkeld, seconded by Jimmy Davis.

ROLL CALL: Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Johnson-yes, Meier-yes, Mireles-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Wagh-yes
Motion approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman