



CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

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Neighborhood Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 21, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

Commission Chairman, Laura Meanwell, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established.

Members Present: Scott Balentine, Ellen Bernstein, Alderman/Vice Mayor Gibson, Tiffany Howlett, Laura Meanwell, Daniel Oppenheim, Margaret Owens, Marissa Rogers, Carol Dickinson Russell, Beth Ueleke, Gerald Wilson, and Laurie Whitney.

Staff Present: Joe Nunes

Introduction of Guests: Alderman Gibson introduced our guests Cameron Ross, City of Germantown Economic and Community Development Director and Mike Harless, Chairman – Planning Commission.

Establishment of Necessity to Conduct Neighborhood Preservation Commission Meeting Electronically:

Mr. Nunes read a declaration regarding the necessity to conduct commission business electronically in light of the pandemic. A motion was made by Scott Balentine and seconded by Carol Dickinson-Russell to meet by electronic means to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. A roll call vote was taken to approve the format. With no objections the motion to conduct meetings electronically was approved.

Consideration of Minutes

A motion was made by Ellen Bernstein and seconded by Margaret Owens to approve the minutes as written. Hearing no discussion or opposition the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Laura Meanwell welcomed the commission members to the first meeting of the year. The commissioners introduced themselves and all were welcomed by the Chairman and Alderman Liaison Mary Anne Gibson.

Election of Vice Chairman: Laura made a motion to bring back Ellen Bernstein as Vice Chairman. Motion was seconded by Margaret Owens. No additional nominations were made. Hearing no discussion or opposition the motion the motion was approved by acclamation.

Acting Secretary: A motion made to nominate Laurie Whitney as Acting Secretary. Motion made by Margaret Owens, Seconded by Ellen Bernstein. Hearing no discussion and opposition, the motion was approved by acclamation to approve Laurie Whitney as Acting Secretary.

Tree Board Liaison: A motion was made to nominate Gerald Wilson as Tree Board Liaison. Motion made by Laura Meanwell and seconded by Margaret Owens. Hearing no discussion and opposition, the motion was approved by acclamation to approve Gerald Wilson as the Tree Board Liaison.

Environmental Commission Liaison: Motion made by Laura Meanwell and seconded by Carol Dickinson-Russell to return as Environmental Commission Liaison. Hearing no discussion and opposition, the motion was approved by acclamation to approve Carol Dickinson-Russell as Environmental Commission Liaison.

2020 – 2021 Neighborhood Preservation Commission Annual Plan: While we don't anticipate a Home Tour this spring due to the pandemic, Laura is hopeful we will be able to host the Neighborhood Summit in the fall of 2021.

Alderman Liaison Report: Alderman/Vice Mayor Mary Anne Gibson

- Attended a City Official Strategy Meeting
- Partnering with the City of Collierville to host a vaccine clinic at Germantown Baptist Church. Providing congratulations and accolades to Chief Selberg and his team for the coordination of these efforts.
- Medical Reserve Corps offers an opportunity to serve locally and throughout the state. Both medically trained and licensed and those who are non-medical can serve. Alderman Gibson will send out information about this opportunity to serve.
- The number one challenge of this commission is how to get the communication to our neighborhood communities. Administration is working to bridge the gap.
- Welcome back to those returning to serve and welcome to our new neighbors who are willing to serve. "This year will be a building year with some great accomplishments. I'm certain of it."

Commission Member Reports:

Tree Board Update:

- Gerald Wilson provided a Tree Board Update
- Tree identification plan was presented. The Arborist for the City, Wesley Hooper was present.

Environmental Commission Update: The commission is planning for fiscal year 2020-21. They met in January about ground water.

Staff Reports:

Neighborhood Services Report – Joe Nunes:

- Reviewing the solid waste collection contract. A recommendation will be made to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen this spring.
- They also are continuing the patrol of the neighborhoods for code compliance

Planning Commission – Joe Nunes:

On the agenda for February 2nd

- Approval of the Wilder Plan Development.
- Expansion of Houston Middle School
- Expansion of Germantown Hardware
- Forest Bend Acres subdivision entrance approval.
- Review of ordinance of residential cornered lots. They have two required front yards to date. Looking to change to two required front yards along with two required side yards.

Review of Ethics Policy:

Joe Nunes gave overview of city ethics policy. (All members received via email) City has a very stringent ethics policy. There cannot be any financial gain by a commissioner. Please review, print the document, sign and forward to Michele Betty.

Proposed Revision to Chapter 4 Germantown Code of Ordinances:

Joe Nunes provided an overview of the 2021 plan for the review of neighborhood preservation ordinances requested by the Mayor. The Mayor has asked the commission to look at our quality of life in our neighborhoods and the ordinances impacting the quality of our neighborhood. Review of the first chapter revisions proposed and will be presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Additional Chapter Highlights Include:

- Chapter 5 – regulation related to keeping chickens
- Chapter 6 – fences and walls
- Chapter 7 - peddling on public property, mobile food vendors, door to door solicitation.
- Chapter 11(new) - Neighborhood and community preservation. Staff is also looking at noise, single family home rentals, streets and sidewalk repair ordinances, etc.

Chapter 4: Staff sent out the redlined version as well as the clean version.

Amusements and entertainments and pertains to the public swimming pool ordinance. Definition revisions include safety cover, water line requirements, move the permit section and added language about tree removal if grade is greater than 3%.

Private and Residential swimming pool ordinance. Swimming pool maintenance requirements. Must be maintained with a level of clarity and must be disinfected unless the pool is covered. If not maintained or not in working order for greater than 180 days it is presumed that it is no

longer be used the City would look for it to be filled in or a safety cover placed. Flood Plain language, drainage of water language also added.

Alderman/Vice Mayor Mary Anne Gibson stated that this is a very much needed change for those who are unable to maintain their pools.

Scott Balentine commented that there should be language related to the notification process since it is possible for the City to take action

Chairman Meanwell asked about next steps and thanked Mr. Nunes for his hard work on behalf of the City.

A motion to Approve was made by Scott Balentine, seconded by Margaret Owens. Approved without opposition. Motion carried.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm

-End-

Chairman Signature

Date