



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815  
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 www.germantown-tn.gov

## **Neighborhood Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes** Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting

### **Call to Order**

Commission Chairman, Laura Meanwell, called the meeting to order at 5:30 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, Kristi Ransom, Marissa Rogers, Carol Dickinson Russell, Beth Ueleke, Gerald Wilson, and Laurie Whitney.

**Staff Present:** Joe Nunes

### **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 Chairman Meanwell and seconded by Margaret Owens for the use of 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.

**Introduction of Guests:** Chief Rodney Bright, Mr. Jason Huisman, Director Cameron Ross

### **Consideration of Minutes**

Minutes approved as written.

**Welcome to New Commissioner:** Kristi Ransom

**Chairman's Report:** Purpose of the Commission was read by Chairman Laura Meanwell

### **Alderman Liaison Report: Alderman/Vice Mayor Mary Anne Gibson**

- Regional Vaccination Center is up and running at Germantown Baptist Church. Vice Mayor Alderman Gibson thanked those who were able to get the clinic up and running so quickly including Germantown city employees from public works, fire, police, and facilities. Medical and non-medical volunteers have come out in support of the clinic.
- A thank you for donations to the Germantown Education Foundation. Contributions can be made from citizen's water bills.
- Battle of the Brains STEM competition will occur virtually this year. Last year it was the largest in our area. This year will be virtual format.
- Please think about our Germantown non-profits such as The Bodine School as well as MOSD and consider participating in their virtual events.
- First responders: police, fire and public works professionals – we value our first responders and appreciate their work every day making our safety and well-being a priority.

### **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 has two more tree identification meetings coming up and if anyone is interested please contact Gerald Wilson.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day Tree Sale will take place again this year.

#### Environmental Commission:

- The Environmental Commission meeting was cancelled.

### **Staff Reports:**

#### Neighborhood Services Report – Joe Nunes:

- Due to the winter storm, Waste Pro Solid waste collection are being monitored day by day. The plan will be collect solid waste beginning on Monday February 22, 2021. No yard waste will be collected until the following week March 1, 2021.

#### Planning Commission – Joe Nunes:

- Approval of the Wilder Plan Development.
- Expansion of Houston Middle School
- Expansion of Germantown Hardware
- Forest Bend Acres subdivision entrance was approved.
- Review of ordinance of residential cornered lots. Today they technically have two required front yards. The recommendation is to change to two required front yards along with two required side yards. This was approved and will move forward to the BMA.

### **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.

This evening, revisions to Chapter 7 were reviewed by Mr. Jason Huisman, Chief Rodney Bright, and Director Cameron Ross.

These topics address quality of life issues.

Chapter 7 Article IV: The purpose is to establish regulations and/or a permitting process for peddlers, solicitors and transient vendors in the City of Germantown.

Chief Rodney Bright described the issues that have occurred over the years that have led to research and a recommendation for a more formal process.

Commission Review and Response:

Chairman Meanwell asked questions about the proposed amendments and invited others to do the same. Questions were raised about the allowance of neighborhood entrance “No Solicitation” signage, the language related to medical conditions and it was mentioned that this would be reviewed by legal and HR.

A motion to approve revisions to Chapter 7 taking into consideration comments from the commission was made by Scott Balentine and seconded by Margaret Owens. Motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements:** Chairman Meanwell has asked us to consider a hybrid event for the Neighborhood Fall event. (Carol Dickinson-Russell to take lead) Road show, connect with commissions. (Kristi Ransom to take lead)

Joe Nunes – Please send in your ethics forms to the City Clerk – Michele Betty.

Scott Balentine – Asked if the City had taken a position on the Valero Pipeline to come through and sitting on top of our aquifer. Joe will bring it forward to our City officials.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm

-End-

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Chairman Signature

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Date