



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, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Conference

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Alderman McCreery
Claudio Meier
Francoise Mireles
Gene Phillips
Scott Schoefnacker
Susan Threlkeld

Staff:

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes

ABSENT

Terri Johnson
Jayu Wagh

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 Urania Erskine and seconded Scott Schoefnacker:

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: Schoefnacker-yes, Erskine-yes, Phillips-yes, Davis-yes, Meier-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Mireles-yes, Motion approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the January 14, 2021 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Susan Threlkeld.

ROLL CALL: Schoefnacker-yes, Erskine-yes, Phillips-yes, Davis-yes, Meier-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Mireles-yes,



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Motion approved.

ALDERMAN LIAISON COMMENTS:

Alderman McCreery welcomed new commission member Gene Phillips.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS, ALDERMAN AND STAFF

Mr. Phillips introduced himself to the Commission. Director Mills gave a brief synopsis of the history, goals and activities of the Environmental Commission.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

- Recycle volume still down year to date approximately 20% partly due to misunderstanding in the community because Memphis ceased recycling temporarily; Memphis recycling will resume in April and hopefully that will impact our volume going forward.
- On the agenda for the next Board of Mayor & Aldermen meeting on March 22nd will be a proposal for a 5 year contract extension for Waste Pro.
- Amnesty Day is set up to take place on April 17th.

Director Mills:

- Over the past few weeks, the most consequential environmental issue is Memphis' Water Boil Order and how it affected the region. Because we have a great water system, it fared very well during the cold temperature. Several private lines froze and we assisted residents when possible. MLGW requested our assistance and over about a 6 day period of time, we pumped approximately 15.7 million gallons of our City's water into the Memphis water system through mutual connections whose valves had been shut off. Opening these valves and pushing our water at a higher pressure into their system made a huge difference in their ability to recover. Through mutual aid agreements we have with neighboring communities and throughout the State, we were able to help Memphis get through this crisis.
- People wanted our water to take back into the Memphis area. Tankers were filled at our hydrants and used to take water to various facilities for dialysis clinics, medical facilities, the Memphis Airport and high-tech facilities that need water to regulate a controlled temperature in their environment. We were a good neighbor and we are proud that our system here in Germantown was able to assist in getting this area back on its feet.
- During the snow event, our snow plow that we obtained 4-5 years ago was constantly manned. It made a great difference getting streets cleared and recovering rapidly. We had a lot of support from the community and many overtime hours were worked by staff. We got a lot accomplished in a short period of time and there was a marked difference when you crossed over into Germantown from other areas because of the great job we did.
- Germantown has implemented a very efficient and well run COVID-19 vaccination site at the Germantown Baptist Church. City employees have helped staff the site and 20% of the vaccinations that are being done in Shelby County are currently occurring at our site. It is a fantastic community service. Public Works staff is assisting with logistics, keeping the site clean and helping staff the site to make it a success.



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COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Susan Threlkeld:

- Native Bees vs. Honey Bees which are imported European organisms: Native bees live in the ground and don't produce large amounts of extra honey. With blueberries, almonds and other crops, we need honey bee hives to help fertilize crops. Research has found that even with plenty of nectar and flowers in areas, the imported honey bees are detrimental to the native bees.
- Gardeners that are interested in new cultivars with new colors or extra petals, research has found that the center fertile area of the flower could be changed to the point that insects can't land on the flower to pollinate them. Also, the fragrance could be lost or the color could change and pollinators might not recognize them as a food source. For pollinator gardens, native plants should be included.

Urania Erskine:

- Germantown Magazine recognized the City of Germantown as a Malcolm Baldrige Award recipient.
- Memphis is addressing and helping citizens to avoid food waste.
- Another left turn lane is needed where S.Germantown Rd. meets Germantown Rd. at Germantown United Methodist Church.

Francoise Mireles:

An article from the World Economic Forum reported on a study of pollution levels from cars and traffic in cities throughout the world. Cities that had hedges of Cotoneaster along their roadways had significantly reduced pollution levels. More studies with the cotoneaster are being done to see how much CO2 can be absorbed and then turned into oxygen through photosynthesis.

Jimmy Davis:

A study done by Harvard University along with other colleges about the effect of burning fossil fuels found that fossil fuels can be blamed for 8.7 million or 1/5 of all premature deaths in 2018 alone. One reason given is that fossil fuels when burned produce particles 2.5 micrometers or smaller which can get into the lungs much easier than larger particles.

Scott Schoeferacker:

The Byhalia Pipeline is a crude oil pipeline that runs 49 miles south from Valero into Mississippi then east and back up into Tennessee to the Capline pipeline near Piperton. Communities are concerned about the pipeline being run through their neighborhoods as well as through the Davis Well Field protected area. There are concerns about the aquifer and how a potential spill could impact it.

Claudio Meier:

An article from Science Direct: Heliyon Journal - Statistical Analysis of Environmental Consequences of Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Accidents. This paper investigates pipeline accident data provided by PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration) between 2010 and 2017, with a focus on environmental consequences of hazardous liquid pipeline accidents. There is no safer way of moving fuels that through pipeline.

Criteria for an accident to be reported to PHMSA are a release of hazardous liquid resulting in:

- Explosion or fire not intentionally set by the operator;



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- Release of 5 gallons (19 liters) or more of hazardous liquid;
- Death of any person;
- Injury necessitating hospitalization;
- Estimated property damage, including cost of clean-up and recovery, value of lost product, and damage to the property of the operator or others, or both, exceeding USD 50,000.

This study shows the number of failures per kilometer of pipeline per year from 2010 – 2017 and in time, the numbers have decreased to 1 per 1000; for the 49 miles or 80 kilometers length of the Byhalia pipeline that would equate to only an 8% annual chance for a failure annually. Of the failures in the study, on average, approximately 10% of these result in water contaminations and most of these hazard contaminations happen at channel crossings.

(Attachment: Email to Mayor Palazzolo from Director Mills regarding Byhalia Pipeline.)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Sign-up for April 17 Amnesty Dumpster Day; please respond to Kathy Cross where you would like to volunteer.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman Skelley.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mayor Palazzolo** <mayor@germantown-tn.gov>

Date: Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 10:51 AM

Subject: Re: Byhalia Pipeline

To: Mills, Bo <bmills@germantown-tn.gov>

Cc: Mayor Palazzolo <mayor@germantown-tn.gov>, Jon McCreery <jmccreery@germantown-tn.gov>, Patrick Lawton <plawton@germantown-tn.gov>, Joe Skelley <ujskelley@gmail.com>, Scott Schoefnacker <schoefnacker@gmail.com>, Claudio Ivan Meier (cimeier) <cimeier@memphis.edu>, Kathy Cross <kcross@germantown-tn.gov>

Good Morning Bo,

Thank you for the update and report from the Environmental Commission. This issue has piqued the interest of many in the region. I had no doubt this matter would draw the interest of our commission. Thanks to all for your diligent work.

Kindly,

-mayor mike

Mike Palazzolo
Mayor
901-757-7252
City of Germantown

On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 7:27 AM Mills, Bo <bmills@germantown-tn.gov> wrote:
Mayor,

Last night at the regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental Commission there was a lengthy discussion about the Byhalia Pipeline. The Commission took no action nor had a strong opinion about the pipeline. As you know Dr. Scott Schoefnacker and Claudio Meier, both employed by the University of Memphis and are CAESER (Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research) program officials, serve on our Commission. They expressed concerns and shared the obvious risk to our aquifer posed by the pipeline. They also provided information about the safety record of pipelines in comparison to rail or trucking. Pipelines are safer. The highest risk to the City of Germantown's well fields lies with the eastern end of the proposed 49 mile pipeline which is just south of Piperton. In the end, the Commission felt that with good safety indicators such as pressure sensing devices to detect leaks, groundwater monitoring wells throughout the length of the pipeline and a good maintenance program that the pipeline is an acceptable calculated risk.

Please note that CAESER has not taken a position on the pipeline and serve to educate on the aquifer and its confining layers.

Myself, Alderman McCreery and the Environmental Commission are available for questions or further discussion.

Thanks, Bo