

Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 1, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Justin Gee
Scott Schoefnacker
Chairman Joe Skelley
David Smith
Susan Threlkeld
Crystal Warren

STAFF

Director Bo Mills
Tiffany Howlett
Alderman Jon McCreery

ABSENT

Tree Board Representative Not Appointed

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Gee-yes, Schoefnacker-yes, Skelley-yes, Smith-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Warren-yes.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum for the Natural Resources Commission meeting was established.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None were present.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the December 2023 meeting by Susan Threlkeld.
No minutes are reported for the January 4, 2024 meeting due to lack of quorum.

ROLL CALL

Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Gee-yes, Schoefnacker-yes, Skelley-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Warren-yes.
Motion approved.

ALDERMAN LIAISON COMMENTS

- Alderman McCreery recognized the Public Works and Bo Mills for the constant commitment to the service of the city. He and others stated that they are the foundation of the city and have gone through a lot this past month with potholes, ice, snow, and more.
- Alderman McCreery updated the commission on the proposed change of making the Mayor a full-time position. He welcomed any questions from the commission.

STAFF REPORTS

- Director Mills updated the commission in regards to the recent ice storm and how Public Works stayed open through the holiday with longer hours to clear and help the city. He noted that the main challenges were the constant cold weather and the limited access to the sand-salt mixture. We had to resort to creating our own as Public Works was cut off from overuse.
 - There was trouble with TDOT as well to come work on their main roads within the city to de-ice and help stuck vehicles during the storm.
- MLGW had a boil notice placed that affected 99 residents within the city. Staff was able to disclose this information to the residents to let them know to follow the notice.
- Public Works worked with various vendors to provide water to hospitals and other medical facilities.
- Director Mills noted that this is the first true meeting that will cover introductory plans for the year.
 - Discussed the City's vision, mission, and values that helped form the community we are trying to uphold.
 - Reviewed Code of Ethical Conduct that needs to be signed by each member and given back to Bo/Tiffany before the next meeting.
- Tiffany discussed Waste Pro's significant improvement the past three months with no fines for performance.
 - Discussed the change within their workplace and how it has affected them as a whole. The new leaders have begun to shape the service into the right direction.
- Plans are to bring the waste contract back to the Board by this time next year.
 - Staff wants to understand customer expectations by summer.
 - The increased cost to landfill and disposal was discussed.
- Concerns were shared about making sure that this information with the up cost will be sent to the community and board before it is settled into approval.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Threlkeld provided a report on form fitting cardboard packaging.

Commissioner Smith asked a question about the EPA recent decree that lead lines will be taken out/no longer around and how Public Works is working on this.

- Director Mills stated that they are working on this matter. Public Works will have to identify service lines in October 2024 for both sides, resident and city.
- Public Works has been slowly working on the issue and in the process of getting a report done for the commission.
- Noted that if the lead components are on either side, the city is responsible to remove and replace.

Commissioner Davis questioned Director Mills about the recent EPA discovery report in November about "forever chemicals" that have been found in drinking water.

- Director Mills explained that there are plans for testing that are required for this year and for it to be placed into the budget of FY25.

Commissioner Gee has nothing to report.

Commissioner Smith reported a water leak to Director Mills near his residence on 1316 Riverwind Cv.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Chairman Skelley brought to the attention of the committee of the 2024 Commission Work Plan.
- Alderman McCreery suggested that everyone should read the Natural Resource section of the forward 2035 plan and come back to the next meeting with items that can be addressed and worked on.
 - Stated that having a collective idea of work can help with goals being formed as a whole for the community.

- This needs to be approved by the committee before all final details.
- Chairman Skelley brings up a future meeting of July 4th. Motion to have it moved was approved by all members to July 11th of 2024

NEW BUSINESS

- Alderman McCreery directed a question to the commission about the matter of looking into LED lighting for Germantown and grouping with the Technology Commission about this matter as it relates to natural resources.
 - Main concerns are how to assemble costs, savings, and the amount needed for Germantown.
 - Jason Huisman, city administrator, has been the one over this project.
- Next meeting there needs to be an idea of what the commission wants to do related to this project
- Bo's retirement is coming up and the Chairman wants to see the commission have participation in the candidate review process.
 - Matter needs to be brought up to Jason Huisman.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn.

ROLL CALL

Motion approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman



