

Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 7th, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

PRESENT

Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Scott Schoefnacker
David Smith
Susan Threlkeld
Crystal Warren

STAFF

Director Bo Mills
Alderman Jon McCreery
Ariana Spaulding

ABSENT

Chairman Joe Skelley
Justin Gee
Tree Board Representative Not Appointed

CALL TO ORDER

Director Mills called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum for the Natural Resources Commission meeting was established. Ariana Spaulding was introduced to the commission as the recorder and the commission was notified of Tiffany Howlett's move to the Engineering Department.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Director Mills introduced Jennifer Allen, Assistant City Engineer-Administration, to the commission.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the February 1, 2024 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Scott Schoefnacker.

ROLL CALL

Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Schoefnacker-yes, Smith-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Warren-yes.
Motion approved.

ALDERMAN LIAISON COMMENTS

Alderman McCreery presented the issue of sign ordinance adjustments that were impacted by Covid. The sign ordinance uses a formula based on square footage to the total parking of a designated lot. Alderman McCreery notes that with this ordinance, the lifestyles of the people have changed to accommodate the overuse of signage.

Where do the people lie in the matter? Some say they use the designated parking places for pickups, while others do not care. This issue was brought up at a city meeting that rendered the questions: Do we accommodate tenants and lifestyles and modify

the ordinance or do we back the ordinance, while enforcing the signage to be put in place. The Design Review Committee is stating that it is illegal parking because no one is meeting the ordinance of minimum parking requirement.

Alderman McCreery emphasized that this is a complicated issue and more time may be needed to resolve it.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Mills provided insight into recent activity at the Southern Water Treatment Plant. The plant is going through routine underground reservoir cleaning and the overhead tanks will also be getting cleaned under our contract with American Tank Maintenance.

There are efforts to get the elevated tank out east in service. There is an appeal against the circulation system that is being required by TDEC for the tank.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Urania Erskine

Mrs. Erskine shared an article concerning some major issues with fluoridation in the water supply. FDA states that this is not safe or ingestible.

Crystal Warren

Ms. Warren provided an update on the Stormwater Advisory Commission and the preparation for a new design of a stormwater manual.

Scott Schoefernacker

Mr. Schoefernacker shared special garbage bags from TDEC that help clean streams.

He discussed the Partisan Bill for TN Waste Production and Recycling Act. The act is to fund recycling with a \$220 million undertaking to reduce the plastic imprint.

A bill has been proposed ending protections for Tennessee wetlands by Representative Kevin Vaughan. Commissioner Schoefernacker and others went to the presentation to speak against the bill.

David Smith

Mr. Smith discussed bidding for the generator relocation, design and construction for the Southern Avenue generator.

Susan Threlkeld

Nothing to report.

Jimmy Davis

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Mills presented the Forward 2035 Mission to practice and promote innovative energy conservation measures. Director Mills spoke to the LED street light issue and asked Alderman McCreery for updates from our Technology Commission. Director Mills has spoken with staff on the issue but has no updates; the main question is how this will be funded moving forward. The Financial Advisory Commission is planning to discuss funding.

Mr. Schoefernacker provided a slideshow about the 6.7MW reduction in electric demand. -

<https://tennesseelookout.com/2024/03/04/bipartisan-tennessee-bill-would-bring-recycling-to-all-homes-be-paid-for-by-private-business/>. The commissions need to work together to discuss and research the matter.

Amnesty Day will be held April 20th, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The shredder will be located at Johnson Road Park; Director Mills will discuss with Leslie Acerra concerning placement of vendors.

The solid waste collection rates for the year 2025 may go up to continue status quo services.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by David Smith and seconded by Scott Schoefnacker.

ROLL CALL

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

Motion approved.

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



Bo Mills, Acting Commission Chairman

