

Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

PRESENT

Chairman Joe Skelley
Ruth Crawford, Tree Board
Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Justin Gee
Scott Schoefnacker
Susan Threlkeld
Crystal Warren

STAFF

Director Bo Mills
Alderman Jon McCreery
Kathy Cross

ABSENT

David Smith, Stormwater Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Davis-yes, Crawford-yes, Erskine-yes, Gee-yes, Schoefnacker-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Warren-yes.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum for the Natural Resources Commission meeting was established.

INTRODUCTIONS

Director Mills welcomed Kathy Cross back to Public Works. Ruth Crawford, liaison from the Tree Board, introduced herself to the Commission.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the March 7, 2024 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Susan Threlkeld.

ROLL CALL

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

ALDERMAN LIAISON COMMENTS

Alderman McCreery shared that it is "Budget Season" and that is where the focus will be for several months. Recently Alderman McCreery attended an event at GPAC and was impressed with the number of out of town attendees who were present, bringing in income and sales tax for the City.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Mills thanked everyone for their participation in a very successful Amnesty Dumpster Day; we had approximately 879 cars bringing debris for disposal. We maxed out our steel dumpster for this event.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen have approved a contract with Grinder, Tabor & Grinder to relocate the suspect generator to under the hill at the Southern Avenue Water Plant. A large portion of the cost will be rental of a portable generator with comparable capability to be utilized while the permanent generator is out of service.

Over the last month and a half, we have been able to isolate each of the underground clear well reservoirs and thoroughly clean them at the Southern Avenue Plant. Southern Avenue is our main treatment plant, so pumpage from each isolated reservoir was alternated as they were cleaned and testing processes for the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation were maintained during the operation.

Our Automated Meter Reading project is close to having an agenda for submission to the BMA for approval, hopefully by the 10th of June. Contract negotiations look good for the City; Our contractor is trying to hold the cost of the service portion of the contract steady for five years. The first year's cost will be minimal due to meter installation during the warranty period.

The City's Solid Waste Contract will not come up for renewal until July 2026 rather than 2025 as previously reported.

Our annual street paving program is near completion, including Dogwood Road and Brachton Avenue. All of the pavement rejuvenation has been completed. Additional funds will be allocated in next year's budget for additional street revitalization.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Susan Threlkeld

Mrs. Threlkeld reported that she observed a large number of bicycles dropped off on Amnesty Day but few ended up in the dumpsters.

Jimmy Davis

Nothing to report.

Scott Schoefnacker

Mr. Schoefnacker reported that PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) testing will be required by TDEC at the City in the next couple of years. TDEC has already tested all of MLGW's wells and that data will be posted when available. Memphis Defense Depot, Millington Military Base and the Memphis Airport have been testing for these substances and have found traces in the ground water, mostly in the shallow aquifer.

Urania Erskine

Mrs. Erskine made a motion that the Commission recommends to the BMA approval of funding for LED Lighting for the City for Fiscal Year 2025. The motion was seconded by Scott Schoefnacker.

ROLL CALL

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

A Proctor & Gamble executive approached Mrs. Erskine at Amnesty Day and asked what the City is doing to remove fluoride from its water. The lady suggested that research shows that pregnant women that drink fluoridated water have children with lower IQs and children whose formula is mixed with fluoridated water have lower IQs. Not to mention, women that drink

fluoridated water lose bone density. The Academy of Sciences recommends that it be removed because research shows ingesting fluoride has no advantage, only topical treatment helps with tooth decay. If we could remove fluoride from our water it would be beneficial to health and save the City money.

Mrs. Erskine suggests that the Commission makes a recommendation to the BMA to change our sanitation guidelines to eliminate recycling of glass and plastics; we would only accept paper and cans. The Commission will submit a letter to the BMA with this recommendation.

Justin Gee

Mr. Gee shared that Municipal Park is getting a new playground from a \$500,000 grant from the State of Tennessee.

Parks and Recreation Staff and Commission is reviewing policies and agreements including Little Free Library applications and maintenance, and inconsistencies in facility agreements for Pickering Center and Harvest Moon Pavillion. A subcommittee is reviewing potential changes in sports service provider fees based on rising costs and maintenance.

Ruth Crawford

Mrs. Crawford shared that 60% of City owned property has a tree canopy. The City has hired an arborist and assistants to maintain care of fallen or unhealthy trees for the safety of our citizens. Inventory of the City's trees have identified at least 15,000 varieties of trees.

Crystal Warren

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Jimmy Davis and seconded by Scott Schoefnacker.

ROLL CALL

Skelley-yes, Crawford-yes, Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Gee-yes, Schoefnacker-yes, Threlkeld-yes

Motion approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman