

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

PRESENT

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Ruth Crawford, Tree Board  
Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Justin Gee, Parks & Recreation  
David Smith  
Susan Threlkeld  
Crystal Warren, Stormwater Board

STAFF

Director Bo Mills  
Kathy Cross

ABSENT

Alderman Jon McCreery  
Scott Schoefernacker

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum for the Natural Resources Commission meeting was established.

INTRODUCTIONS

Jared Woodruff, Natural Resource Manager

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the May 2, 2024 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Susan Threlkeld.

ROLL CALL

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

ALDERMAN LIAISON COMMENTS

In Alderman McCreery's absence, Director Mills reminded the Commission that the second reading and public hearing of the FY25 Budget will be held on June 10th.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Director Bo Mills:

Automated Meter Readers - The approximate \$7 million contract will be submitted to the Board of Mayor and Alderman on June 24th for approval. Kamstrup Meters will be installed along with radio frequency transmitters that will transmit signals providing data from the meters to our Utility Billing Clerk. It will be approximately an eighteen month installation process. Residents can set up their account on a portal to view or track meter readings and usage from their meter day or night.

Lead & Copper Analysis - We are required by October 16th to report to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, who then reports to the Environmental Protection Agency, any lead or copper service lines and components that exist in the City's water system. Every service line and their components on both sides of the meter have to be accounted for; We have PVC and polyethylene in the City but the majority of our service lines are made of copper.

Generator Relocation - The Board approved the contract for the generator relocation and we have had the preconstruction meeting. The new generator will be moved and installed at the bottom of the hill. We will be working with EnSafe to test soil at the original generator site for any residual diesel and remove that soil and replace it with clean soil and re-sod.

### Jared Woodruff

Mr. Woodruff is working with the Stormwater Commission to place devices in the stormwater system to intercept floating debris and pollution.

Mr. Woodruff shared about a tree project where a policy has been implemented charging developers a mitigation fee when they remove trees; that money is reserved solely for planting trees and removing hazardous trees around sensitive areas in the city. Currently, the city has approximately 40-45% tree canopy and would like to have even more.

## COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

### Susan Threlkeld

According to a recent article, light Pollution is now increasing approximately 10% yearly. LED lighting contributes to this problem with their intense brightness. Astronomers recognized the light pollution problem years ago but now ordinary people are aware. Dimming lights at night could be an alternative to help reduce light pollution.

### Jimmy Davis

Indiana is testing technology that can charge electric vehicles as they drive at 65 miles an hour. A coil embedded under asphalt or concrete transfers energy from the grid to a receiver on a vehicle. The technology is like wireless charging for your cell phone, where a transmitter sends energy through a magnetic field.

### Ruth Crawford

Nothing to report.

### Justin Gee

Nothing to report.

### David Smith

Nothing to report.

### Crystal Warren

During the Stormwater Advisory Commission meeting in May, residents whose properties back up to Riverwoods posed the question if erosion around drainage structures on their properties are a private or public responsibility. The City Engineer as well as a TDEC representative assessed the situation and determined it was a private issue for homeowners.

Proposals for an updated Stormwater Manual will be awarded at the next BMA Meeting.

Ms. Warren toured Memphis Tire Recyclers last week. Each Municipality has money allocated for the disposal of used tires. Tires from Shelby County are collected, shredded and then used for various purposes.

Kathy Cross

PFAS testing was performed on raw water from our wells this past week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approval of Memorandum recommending moving forward with installation of LED lighting, from our May commission meeting. Motion made by Jimmy Davis that we accept the letter as written, seconded by David Smith.

ROLL CALL

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

Approval of Memorandum recommending removing glass and plastics from our acceptable recyclables.  
After meeting with Memphis Republic Services and touring their recycling facility, we were informed that glass and plastics are still desirable recyclables and there is still a market for them. They didn't encourage us to promote glass recycling but they didn't encourage us to discontinue it either. There is a plant in Little Rock, AR that crushes glass and uses it in their recycled asphalt and now with improved equipment, Republic has been able to better process the glass they receive. The recycling facility has new equipment with updated technology that processes and sorts plastics by color to make plastics a successful commodity to take to market. Republic is active in the construction of four facilities planned across the country to sort, compress, bundle and sell different plastic materials in a thriving market. Our recommendation is that we reconsider our letter requesting changes in the City's recycling guidelines to eliminate glass and plastic. Motion made by Urania Erskine that we not move forward with the memo, seconded by David Smith.

ROLL CALL

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

NEW BUSINESS

Fourth of July Natural Resource Meeting - it was decided that we would cancel the meeting and reconvene in August. Motion made by Susan Threlkeld that we not move forward with the memo, seconded by Jimmy Davis.

ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Jimmy Davis and seconded by Justin Gee.

ROLL CALL

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

  
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Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman