



VOL. 1 ISSUE 4 • July 2019

Pittman Center Times

Official Newsletter of the Town of Pittman Center

Dear Subscribers,

Welcome to the summer vacation edition of the Pittman Center Times!

Thank you for the tremendous support for the newsletter project! Approximately 114 folks have signed up to receive the PCTimes, with a few still trickling in each week. We have heard that some people did not receive the *initial* mailed version and we apologize! To sign up for the newsletter, please send your request to astownhall@gmail.com. Newsletters are delivered via email only.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to call Town Hall at 436-5499.

Your PCTimes Volunteers

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

Summer is in full swing and Town staff are diligently working on various projects around Town. June and July have been very busy months across all departments and we are continuing to move forward on all fronts.

The Town has engaged the services of Travis Ogle to perform Building Official services for the Town. Travis previously worked for the City of Gatlinburg and possess the needed six International Code Council Certifications.

We ask that citizens, contractors, and developers bear with us as we transition from codes being handled by the State of Tennessee to Pittman Center. I believe this will provide a higher level of service and protection to citizens as well as developers and builders whom I believe will see higher quality local services.



Our Maintenance Department has made substantial progress this month. I want to once again apologize regarding right of way mowing. Our tractor is just now back to being operational. Thank you to Blalocks for renting us a tractor to get caught up. Everywhere but Pinnacle Vista should be mowed by the time this newsletter is released. Our maintenance department has recently ordered a Dodge 3500 dump truck to better serve the citizens, has made upgrades to our maintenance building, and have done a significant amount of clean up around the Spring Branch Walking Trail. If you like emerald green moss covered with fallen white sourwood blossoms, this is the place to be! Thanks to our hard-working



staff, the area is freshly mowed and downed trees and other debris have been cleared. The Town's little greenway has never looked better, give it a visit!

Our Police Department is very busy at this time of year due to the increased number of folks visiting during the summer months. The department is currently in the process of taking applications for a fourth Police Officer position. If you know any POST certified folks that you believe would be a great match for our community please send them to us! We look forward to getting this person in position to provide an increased level of service to the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Michael Borders
City Administrator

MEET OUR CITY EMPLOYEES!

James Blackstock can most often be found in his office, a police Tahoe patrolling this great community. Blackstock has been a Police Officer with Pittman Center for about a year and a quarter.

What do you do?

Protect and serve the awesome residents of Pittman Center!

What do you like about your job?

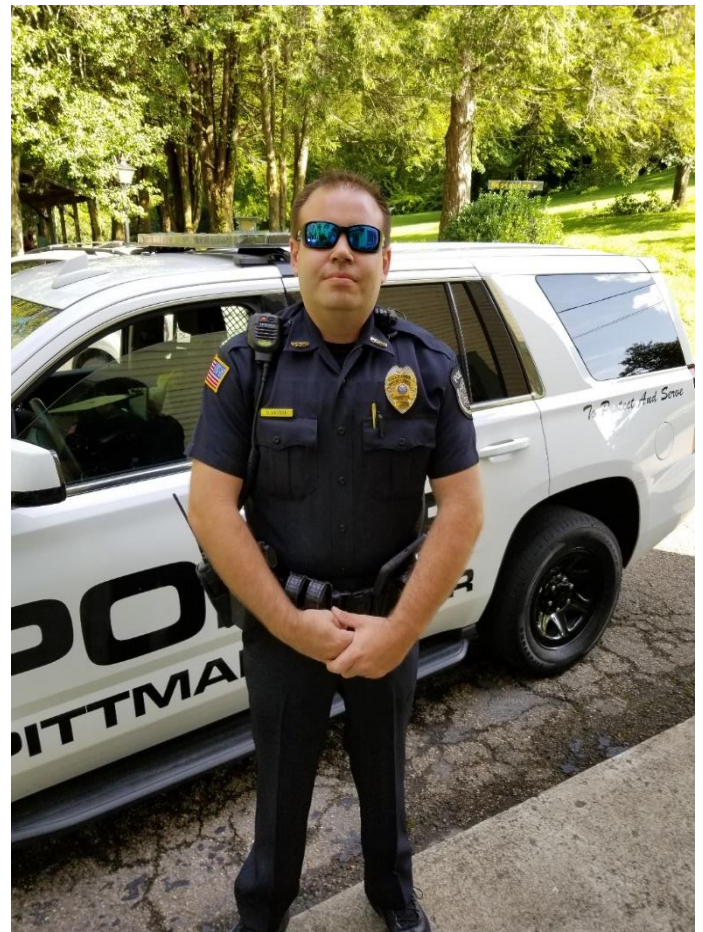
The best part about my job is about serving in such a great community and helping great people on a daily basis.

What do you like about Pittman Center?

I just really enjoy the community and the folks in it and how truly unique the community is.

Anything Else?

In his off time Blackstock enjoys working on cars, fishing, grilling out, and watching UT Football! Go Big Orange!!



TOWN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Town meetings are open to the public, and members of the community are encouraged to attend! Official minutes are, or will be, available on the Pittman Center web site. Below, is a brief and unofficial overview of each board.

At the July 8th **Planning Commission**, Commissioners discussed Short-Term Rental Regulations particularly Airbnb and Vrbo rentals. No action was taken. At the **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting a variance was granted for Dan Riley to have an accessory structure in the front yard.

At the **BMA** meeting on June 20th, an Independent Contractor Agreement for Building Official was approved, Building Permit Fee Schedules were approved, an Accounting Oversight Services Agreement through Rodefer Moss was Approved, for Auditing Services David Ellis was selected, the Board was given a presentation from Fire-Wise by Rick Brown and Nathan Waters, the board approved on second reading Ordinance No. 287 to amend the budget for fiscal year 2019, the board approved on second reading Ordinance No. 288 to adopt and set the tax rate for fiscal year 2020 (**no change to the tax rate**), Resolution No. 218 for Retroactive Authorization for the Issuance, Sale, and Payment of General Obligation Series 2019 Capital Outlay Notes for \$270,000 was approved (Hills Creek Road repair financing), a combined annual blanket salt bid from Morton was approved, and lastly the board was presented and discussed several options for a citizens comments process.

At the **BMA** meeting on July 18th the Town approved donations of \$3,500 for the Pittman Center Heritage Museum and \$3,000 for Sevier County Animal Care (which we hope to feature in an upcoming newsletter very soon!). The Board approved on second and final reading Ordinance No. 289: An Ordinance to Adopt a Family of Building Codes Relating to Inspection Activities of the Town of Pittman Center and passed Resolution No. 219: A Resolution Relative to the Presentation of Petitions and Communications from the Audience at Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meetings and the Procedures for Implementing Same.

At the June 26th **Tree Board** Meeting, Tree Board members Keith Watson and Kris Johnson met with Dr. Sharon Jean-Phillipe of the University of Tennessee Urban Forestry Program to discuss potential projects for undergraduate students, including an inventory of Town owned trees and recreation planning for Spring Branch Greenway.

The Planning Commission will meet on August, 12th, at 4:30.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will meet on Thursday, August 15th at 4:30.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

Old Hills Creek Road: Is now complete. Town staff would like to apologize for the delay, contractors were simply backed up. Please note that Old Hills Creek Road will flood under certain rain conditions. The only way to prevent the road from flooding is to raise the road and place a box culvert, which is cost prohibitive. We advise folks to not use Old Hills Creek Road under inclement weather conditions.

Webbs Creek Road: Webbs Creek Road will be undergoing bank stabilization on the creek side in the coming weeks. During this time the road will be down to one lane.

Butler Branch Road: Butler Branch Road had some rock and riprap washed away during the storm on 7/23. Maintenance staff will be working on repairs in the coming weeks. During this time the road will be limited to one lane of traffic.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause citizens and appreciate your patience as we repair our infrastructure.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AT BMA MEETINGS

The Town of Pittman Center has recently passed a Resolution regulating petitions and communications from the audience. The following is the procedure from the Resolution:

Any individual wishing to address the Board of Mayor and Aldermen must submit a request in writing to City Administration staff two (2) days prior to the date of the meeting. City Administration staff shall forward these items to board members one (1) day prior to the meeting. The individual must state the subject(s) that is to be addressed and shall be limited to that topic(s). The individual should give his or her name and address in their written request. Individuals addressing the Board will normally be given three (3) minutes to speak on the item(s) they indicated. Individuals who wish to address topics other than the one indicated may be called out of order by the Mayor. The Board has a right to deny a request by any or all individuals based upon a majority vote of the Board. The decision to deny an individual's request is final for that meeting.

If you have any questions please contact Town Hall at (865) 436-5499

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Lights out in Pittman Center

The National Park Service highlights dark night sky along with natural sounds as lesser known yet important resource values. Neighboring communities have an important role in protecting these values for park visitors and wildlife as well as for community residents. Pittman Center is leading the way in improving dark night skies on the Tennessee side of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A recent strategic planning meeting held at city hall listed a 'dark sky' initiative as a priority in the coming years.

The International Dark Sky Association website presents benefits of dark night sky in terms of preventing damage to wildlife and human health. Artificial lighting disrupts bird orientation for migration and reproduction, and interferes with breeding and habitat for reptiles, amphibians and insects. Amphibians can detect light levels a hundred times dimmer than humans. Our own health can be impacted primarily through hormonal disruption, resulting in depression, sleep disorders, obesity, diabetes and some cancers as well as disrupting genetic codes. The blue light emitted by LEDs and computers is especially harmful.

Research in Europe found no evidence that increased lighting reduces crime, and may even lead to increases in such crimes as vandalism and graffiti. Outdoor lighting attracts insects, disrupting their life patterns and causing debris from dead insects and webs of spiders who prey on them.

The International Dark Sky Association recommends:

- shield lights, directing light down instead of everywhere
- use light only where and when you need it-- consider motion detectors
- use energy efficient bulbs which are only as bright as necessary

Thank you and we'll see ya next time!

-PCTimes Staff