



VOL. 2 ISSUE 5 • May 2020

Pittman Center Times

Official Newsletter of the Town of Pittman Center

Dear Subscribers,

Thank you for continuing to read the Pittman Center Times! We believe this is one of the best methods to communicate with the citizens of this community. We look forward to continuing communicating with YOU, the CITIZEN!

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to call Town Hall at (865) 436-5499 or you can email us at asutton@pittmancentertn.gov.

Your PC Times Staff

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

The last few months have been unprecedented as we dealt with COVID-19's health and financial consequences. As we have gone from being more or less "shut down" to easing our doors open I can truly say we have stayed Mountain Strong. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the leaders in this county. I think it is rare that four municipalities and a county work together with such cohesion. In the month of May the Town has been quite productive. We held our strategic and budget work session on the 14th, which was very productive. During this work session we discussed goals and objectives for each of our departments, longer range strategic goals, and discussed the framework of our budget for fiscal year 2021. Our budget was prepared with a decrease in revenues due to the recent pandemic and the dramatic effect on projected revenues from local option sales tax and hotel/motel tax. However, in the last few weeks projections have shifted to be considerably more favorable than originally projected. Town staff will continue to monitor revenues and will most likely have an amended budget prepared sometime around mid-fiscal year. Our Public Works Department has done a great job with planting and over all "sprucing up" around Town. We are very excited about the progress we have made during the last fiscal year and our plans for fiscal year 2021.



For the time being the playground will remain closed, but we are closely monitoring the situation and what other municipalities are doing. We hope to have these facilities opened up in the near future.

Michael T. Borders
City Administrator

TOWN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Town meetings are open to the public. Members of the community are encouraged to attend! Complete minutes (after they are approved) are available on the Pittman Center website. Below is an unofficial and brief overview of the meetings.

Planning Commission

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting for 5/11/20 was cancelled.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA)

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen held a strategic planning and budgeting work session on May 14th. During the meeting the Board discussed goals and objectives for the upcoming year along with the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021. No action was taken.

During the regularly scheduled meeting held on May 21st the Board of Mayor and Aldermen:

1. Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Consideration of Ordinance No. 296: An Ordinance Amending the “Zoning Map of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee” by Rezoning Property from the RLD (Low Density Single Family Residential) to the R-2 (Planned Residential) District. The Ordinance passed on second and final reading.
2. First Reading and Consideration of Ordinance No. 297 An Ordinance of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee Adopting the Annual Budget and Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021. The Ordinance passed on first reading.
3. Reading and Consideration of Resolution No. 224 A Resolution of the Town of Pittman Center designating the Town of Pittman Center as a Bee City USA Affiliate. The Resolution passed on first reading.
4. Reading and Consideration of Resolution No. 225 A Resolution Authorizing the Town of Pittman Center to Apply for the Governor’s Local Government Support Grants. The Resolution passed on first reading.

The Planning Commission will meet on Monday June 8th at 4:30

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will meet on Thursday June 18th at 4:30

The next Tree Board meeting is yet to be determined.

The next Recreation Board meeting is yet to be determined.

Please note we are unsure of how future meetings will be conducted due to COVID-19. Please check our website and Facebook for up to date information. If you have any questions regarding agenda items or action please contact the City Administrator at (865) 436-5499. Please note that meetings may be cancelled or held electronically which may or may not allow for Citizens Comments due to the current pandemic. Please check our website and Facebook for more information.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mountain TOUGH

www.mountaintough.org has been re-launched as a website for Sevier County Residents to receive updated information regarding COVID-19. The Mayors and City Managers of the County authorized the Sevier County Economic Development Council to re-launch the site. The website contains a multitude of resources to help individuals and businesses affected by this pandemic.



Continued Closure of Playground and Pavilion

The Town of Pittman Center has closed the City Hall Playground and Pavilion which will **remain closed** until further notice. We do anticipate opening in the near future. Please check out our Facebook and website for the most up to date information.

Department of Health COVID-19 Testing

The Sevier County Health Department is doing **NO CHARGE COVID-19 Testing!**
Please call (865) 453-1032 for an appointment



MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT



The maintenance department has spent the last few weeks beautifying the Town's signage by cleaning the existing signs and adding landscaping. We really think it looks good! The maintenance department has also been hard at work preparing to repair the crossing at Butler Branch. We hope to get that project started in the next few weeks. Mowing season has also opened up. I am sure several folks have seen Ronnie and Agnus (the tractor) out and about mowing the right of way. Please give these great folks a wave as you see them working around Town!



REMINDERS...

Please remember in order to participate in the citizens comment section at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting you must fill out a form provided by Town staff and return the form prior to the end of day Tuesday before the Thursday meeting. You can find the form at www.pittmancentertn.gov go to the “government” tab in the ribbon bar then to “printable forms”. You may also contact Town staff and have the form filled out over the phone at (865) 436-5499.

GRASSY BRANCH BRIDGE – LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings, Everyone,

You may be aware that the Grassy Branch Bridge in the Town of Pittman Center needs to be replaced. Since at least June 24, 2015 this one lane bridge has had an overall condition rating of poor from TDOT. Originally, this bridge was slated to be replaced with the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program (80% Federal) with the remainder (20%) being funded by the Town. After the fires in 2016, a bridge in Gatlinburg was damaged and funds were diverted to this bridge with the understanding that in the future the Grassy Branch Bridge’s local portion (20% of total project) would be 98% funded by the State’s Bridge Grant Program. This brought the Town’s cost down, from an estimated \$304,823.86 which would require debt issuance, to \$6,096.48 with the State being responsible for any overages. The Town has executed the contract with the State and the State has already started the project. Up to this point the State has spent approximately \$60,000 on the project.

It is the understanding of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen along with Town staff that to be eligible for both State and Federal funds that the bridge must be a two-lane bridge. In fact, Michael Borders and I went to the Region 1 Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) office in Knoxville for a meeting with TDOT representatives to request a one lane bridge. We were told at that time that State and Federal funding, and thus State and Federal guidelines, would not allow a one lane bridge to be built.

The larger bridge will require further right of way acquisition and have an overall more significant impact on our community. There are several citizens that are dissatisfied with the proposed replacement. However, the Town simply cannot afford to replace this bridge without State or Federal funding and reimburse TDOT for current expenditures of approximately \$60,000 (and growing).

It is imperative that this bridge be replaced. I cannot, in good conscience, place a greater financial burden on the taxpayers of the Town of Pittman Center in order to replace the one lane bridge with a one lane bridge. The Town will work with the State to ensure that the new bridge will be as aesthetically pleasing as possible.

Sincerely,

Jerry Huskey
Mayor

COMMUNICATION FROM TDOT REGARDING GRASSY BRANCH

“Good afternoon... The Department has been working with Pittman Center concerning the proposed Grassy Branch Road Bridge over Middle Prong of Little Pigeon River project since early 2017. TDOT and the Town have entered into a contract to replace the existing bridge using a federal bridge replacement program. TDOT and Federal standards require that a minimum width bridge be built in order to access these funds, that is 24 feet wide with two 9 foot lanes and 2 foot shoulders along with a 1 foot bridge rail on each side. As part of this project, the Town is responsible for approximately \$6,000.00 of the estimated \$1.5 million total cost. The original planning report for this project recommended a new bridge south of the existing bridge.

As part of plans development, the department is required to prepare an environmental document. In preparation of this document, departmental staff review social, natural, and cultural impacts. Recommendations and comments are made regarding the proposed design based on those findings. Based on preliminary findings for the proposed Grassy Branch Road bridge, the department identified an environmentally sensitive area within the project limits. The department is currently evaluating multiple alternatives to minimize impacts to this area. Over the next several months, the department will continue to evaluate the possible impacts of each alternative. Once all the necessary environmental studies are complete, the department will be able to make an informed decision on how to proceed with the design. These findings will be coordinated and discussed with representatives from the Town of Pittman Center before the department moves forward with a final design.”

Mark Nagi
TDOT Community Relations Officer
Region 1 (East Tennessee)
7345 Region Lane
Knoxville, TN 37914



PUBLIC QUESTIONS REGARDING GRASSY BRANCH BRIDGE

Do you have a question regarding the Grassy Branch Bridge project?

The Town of Pittman Center is compiling a list of commonly asked questions regarding Grassy Branch Bridge to submit to TDOT. Please send questions to asutton@pittmancenter.tn.gov or give us a call at (865) 436 – 5499. The Town will submit these questions in **two weeks** so please have any questions turned into us by **June 15th**. We will then publish TDOT’s answer to these questions on website, Facebook, and the newsletter after the answers are received. We are unsure what TDOT’s turnaround time is, but we will post the answers as soon as possible. We also would like to reiterate this is a fluid project and we may not have all of the answers at this time.

Some examples of commonly asked questions:

1. Can the project use precast components to speed up the project?
2. Can one lane of a bridge be built, opened up to traffic, the existing bridge removed, and then the second lane of the bridge be built?

The Town cares about transparency and communication with its citizens. We hope that the preceding information will help folks understand this project. If you have any questions please feel free to call City Hall at (865) 436-5499.

The Town and TDOT reserve the right to not answer any non-related questions, personal attacks, etc. To not overwhelm TDOT or repeat information similar questions may be “lumped together” asked in a slightly different manner. Some questions may not be answerable at this time because we simply do not know the answer.

PICTURES FROM BRIDGE INSPECTION REPORT 1/31/2017

Photographs



HEAVY SCALE EXPOSED REBAR BASE PIER 4

Bridge ID#: 780A3590001

Date: 01/31/2017



HEAVY CORROSION LOSS OF SECTION TOP FLANGE BEAM B SPAN 1

Bridge ID#: 780A3590001

Date: 01/31/2017



Bridge ID#: 780A3590001

Date: 01/31/2017



HEAVY CORROSION BOTTOM DECK SPAN 1 BETWEEN BEAMS B/C



HEAVY CORROSION LOSS OF SECTION BOTTOM DECK BETWEEN BEAMS C/D SPAN 6



Bridge Condition Coding Form

Revised 02/02/2017

Bridge Number: 780A35900011
(Includes Item 5A)

Feature Intersected: LITTLE PIGEON RIVER

Evaluation Status: CONDITION ITEM CHANGE

County: 78

Route: 0A359

Special Case: 0

County Sequence: 1

Log Mile: 0.01

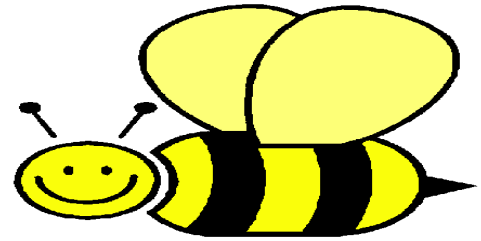
CODE ONLY THOSE VALUES WHICH HAVE CHANGED

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	CONDITION CODING GUIDELINES (Values for Coding Items 58, 59, 60 and 62)
90	LAST INSPECTION DATE	01/31/2017	N NOT APPLICABLE 9 EXCELLENT CONDITION 8 VERY GOOD CONDITION - NO PROBLEMS NOTED. 7 GOOD CONDITION - SOME MINOR PROBLEMS. 6 SATISFACTORY CONDITION - MINOR DETERIORATION OF STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS. 5 FAIR CONDITION - ALL PRIMARY STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS ARE SOUND BUT MAY HAVE MINOR SECTION LOSS, CRACKING, SPALLING OR SCOUR. 4 POOR CONDITION - ADVANCED SECTION LOSS, DETERIORATION, SPALLING OR SCOUR. 3 SERIOUS CONDITION - LOSS OF SECTION, DETERIORATION, SPALLING OR SCOUR HAVE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED PRIMARY STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS. LOCAL FAILURES ARE POSSIBLE. FATIGUE CRACKS IN STEEL OR SHEAR CRACKS IN CONCRETE MAY BE PRESENT. 2 CRITICAL CONDITION - ADVANCED DETERIORATION OF PRIMARY STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS. FATIGUE CRACKS IN STEEL OR SHEAR CRACKS IN CONCRETE MAY BE PRESENT OR SCOUR MAY HAVE REMOVED SUBSTRUCTURE SUPPORT. UNLESS CLOSELY MONITORED IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CLOSE THE BRIDGE UNTIL CORRECTIVE ACTION IS TAKEN. 1 "IMMINENT" FAILURE CONDITION - MAJOR DETERIORATION OR SECTION LOSS PRESENT IN CRITICAL STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS OR OBVIOUS VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AFFECTING STRUCTURAL STABILITY. BRIDGE IS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BUT CORRECTIVE ACTION MAY PUT IT BACK IN LIGHT SERVICE. 0 FAILED CONDITION - OUT OF SERVICE AND BEYOND CORRECTIVE ACTION.
	EARLIEST DATE OF NEXT REGULAR INSPECTION	12/02/2018	
		/ /	
10	MINIMUM V.C. OVER DECK (ROADWAY + SHOULDERS)	99 FT. 99 IN.	
520	MINIMUM V.C. OVER DECK (EXCLUDES SHOULDERS)	99 FT. 99 IN.	
36	TRAFFIC SAFETY FEATURES		
	Br. Rail Trans. Appr. Rail Terminal SPEED LIMIT	0 N 0 0 20	
41	STRC OPEN/CLOSED/POSTED	P	
	A K P		
58	DECK	4	
59	SUPERSTRUCTURE	4	
60	SUBSTRUCTURE	4	
61	CHANL/CHANL PROTECTION	7	
62	CULVERT AND RETAIN WALL	N	
71	WATERWAY ADEQUACY	7	
72	APPROACH RDWY ALIGNMENT	8	
521	OVERALL CONDITION	POOR	
16	LATITUDE	17 LONGITUDE	
	N 35° 45.2330'	W 83° 24.8250'	
TEAM LEADER SIGNATURE		REVIEW DATE	

DID YOU KNOW...?

Bee City – Pittman Center joins 107 other Bee Cities

The Tree Board and Board of Mayor and Aldermen worked together in recent months to designate Pittman Center as an official Bee City. This program endorses a set of commitments to create sustainable habitats for native pollinators, including bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. 90% of the world's flowering plants - including many that provide food - depend on pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators are in danger worldwide from loss of habitat and pesticides, so every community can help by creating habitat, educating residents and managing public property in a sustainable, environmentally responsible manner. The Bee City program will provide education, resources and projects to improve pollinator habitat in our town. For more information, see the website <https://www.beecityusa.org>. The Tree Board will manage Bee City initiatives and look forward to suggestions from residents. Current Tree Board members are Kristine Johnson, Diane Warwick (TN Division of Forestry Urban Forester), Sheila McMahan, Stephani Sweeney and Kathy Brooks.



Kris Johnson
Tree Board Chair

We are very excited to become an official Bee City once our application is processed. We believe that this designation shows our commitment to maintaining our Mountain Heritage.

Pittman Center Happenings During Quarantine



CHARLOTTE COMSTOCK PHOTOGRAPHED THE BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS ON EMERTS COVE





ALEX DAVIS AND KATIE VALENTINE WERE MARRIED

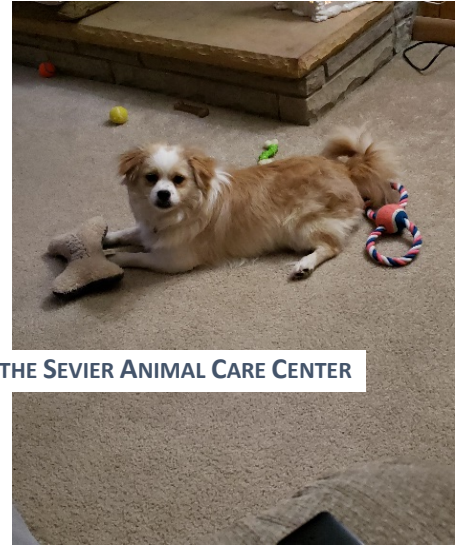


TAMMY WATTS KEPT HER TRACTOR BUSY ON HER FARM





BOBBY AND APRIL SUTTON ADOPTED HAPPY, A RESCUE FROM THE SEVIER ANIMAL CARE CENTER



MICHAEL BORDERS PICKED UP RUNNING AND RAN HIS FIRST 5K "VIRTUALLY". HE HAS NOW LOST OVER 100LBS AND DIDN'T SUCUMB TO THE "QUARANTINE 15"

