



PLEASANT HILL, TENNESSEE TOWN TALK



July 2021

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CONTINUED ROADWORK

Now that the turning lane at the Dollar General is complete, soon the second phase of the road project will be underway. As a result of the safety study which resulted in the DG turning lane, there will be improvements also in the front of the Pleasant Hill Market (explained in Mayors Desk). Please be patient and drive safely while the road crews make our highway safer for us.



UPDATES

Beecher Seegraves Park - Jaramy will be crafting and welding the toppers that will adorn the three stones already placed at the Veterans Memorial Park. Please note that the metal company supplying the topper material is donating half the price of the metal materials in honor of our Veterans. Pleasant Hill owes a big THANK YOU to Charles and Travis Threet at Crossville Metal Fabrication who made this generous donation. The Town will be formally acknowledging all who have donated time, materials, and efforts to make this memorial a reality.

Street Paving - Not all our streets are in A-1 shape, but this is the first time in the 118 year life of Pleasant Hill that all our streets are paved. Please thank your active and involved Town Council.

Town Hall Backup Generator - It has been an ongoing project for this Council to make its way to approving a natural gas generator to provide power when electricity fails. The main objective will be to provide a warming center for residents in cold weather when outages mean many homes are not heated. The total cost of a generator will be approximately \$8,000. VEC has generously agreed to donate \$2500 to Pleasant Hill to help make our purchase of a generator possible. At the June 8th, 2021 monthly meeting, your Town Council approved a resolution to provide the balance of \$5500 to hook up a generator for the benefit of our citizens. In case of an emergency, residents will have a place to go for warmth. Town Hall has two bathrooms, a shower, a small kitchen with appliances, a lobby for chairs/cots, and the heated maintenance shop if there was a need to set up for a larger number of people or cots. Thanks to VEC on behalf of our citizens!

Salt Box Approval - In the past, the town has purchase road salt by the bag because... well, that's the way it's always been done. However, with winters becoming more severe, Jaramy made a proposal to the Council and we decided last year to construct a salt box building to store salt in bulk at a greatly reduced cost. The building was to happen this summer during the area when salt wasn't being used. When the initiative was first approved, the Town was slated to recoup the building cost of the box over a one year period, with a realized savings every year thereafter. However, because of the recent increase in building supplies, the new estimate in projected recovery will be approximately 2 years. After discussion of the difference in cost and timeframe of savings, the Council voted to still move forward with the structure. There will be an initial \$3400 investment to build, but will save the Town significantly after two years.

Fall Festival - still looking for interested parties - All are encouraged to participate. If interested please contact: Barbara Smith at 248-228-4797.

PLEASANT HILL HAS A NEWLY UPDATED TOWN CHARTER

The Town's previous charter was last updated in the mid 90's. It needed to be badly 'refurbished' and brought up to date to reflect 30+ years of life changes, and new language to freshen the Town message. The State of Tennessee House and Senate approved our new charter, and the Council voted on June 8th to accept that approval and pass a resolution of acceptance. The new Charter will be available for viewing at Town Hall as soon as the state completes their procedures to write in in stone once they receive our resolution. If you wish to view it, come in and fill out and open records request.

Let's not lose the small joys in the hopes of the big happiness.

Pearl S. Buck



There are two topics which surfaced over the past month that initiated some involved discussion, feedback, and investigation.

Speed bumps - This conversation surfaced initially on a conference call I had been invited to. Due to the potential for new construction in the future, and as a result the expansion of the number of residents in our community, a request was made to place speed bumps in an area where there could be the potential for increased traffic. Feeling it was imperative to conduct inquiries from experts in our state and county, I sought to be educated on the proper information to take to the Council. After investigation with TDOT, State Safety Officers, the County, and then further discussions with the EMS of Cumberland County... the recommendations from every entity, which were all in agreement, was not to pursue this course of action. These are just some of the multiple reasons:

- 1) Emergency vehicles find it challenging to navigate speed bumps and precious time is lost. Cumberland County EMS says that even seconds worth of delay getting to a patient, or getting that patient to the hospital, could mean a life. This is definitely a factor in our community.
- 2) In good weather - the proposed area includes an incline. Reports show that bumps on or near an incline/decline pose a driving hazard with the possibility of a motorist losing control of the vehicle when either go up or down the hill.
- 3) In inclement weather - while driving down an incline in rain or ice, hitting a speed bump at the wrong speed has the potential to cause a driver to skid or even lose control. While driving over a speed bump going up a hill in icy weather, it may hinder the vehicle's momentum and agility to navigate the incline.
- 4) It is largely accepted that cities and towns do not place speed bumps on a municipal road because the liability factor to the town is a major consideration. Developments and HOA communities opt at times to place bumps on their maintained byways because they are able to obtain a waiver from the residents... towns are not. Aside from the safety risk factors, this is a great liability the Town is unable to undertake.
- 5) Speed bumps are meant to reduce speed. To date, there are no speeding incidents reported in that area.
- 6) Since this conversation surfaced, calls and emails have come into my office asking to please **not** install speed bumps.

Council's Decision: After extensive discussion in June's Council Mtg, the vote was unanimous to abandon the idea of speed bumps at this time. The Council took under consideration the overwhelming advice by experts, the liability the Town could be exposed to, and the lack of evidence that speeding is currently an issue in the proposed area. We would be making a decision on what 'might' happen rather than addressing a current problem.

Speed Limit Reduction on Rt. 70 - I asked the State to do a speed study on the stretch of highway from the Browntown area to the Dollar General in the effort to justify a reduction in the speed limit on that stretch of road (our suggestion was 45 mph), in hopes of make the stretch safer. The decision is up to the state because although it travels through our town limits, that stretch of road belongs to, and is maintained by the state. I did mention we have had a number of casualties in that area, and our goal was to mitigate the problem. I received the study back and shared the results with the Council. Bottom line, it stated that the area does not meet the state's mandatory criteria for speed reduction, and they have denied our request for a reduction. However, take heart... the state did acknowledge unsafe conditions in that area and as a result, a number of other safety recommendations were proposed and approved. One was the addition of a turning lane heading east bound at the Dollar General. Another significant change will be traffic flow in and out of the Pleasant Hill Market parking lot to help reduce accidents in that area. As of this writing, barriers are being placed to regulate the flow in and out of the Market. Experts feel these changes will mitigate the problems on this stretch of road.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING IS TUESDAY JULY 13, 2021.

All residents are welcome. The meeting will be held in person at Town Hall, with limited seating available. If you wish to attend, please call Town Hall to reserve a seat at 931-277-3813.