

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

JUNE 2020

Hello, everyone,

I'm praying you are all well and safe. Please be mindful of each other and keep a safe distance. You never know what kind of plague you could be spreading. I know, not funny, but I can't help myself; I'm so over it. I really don't want anyone to be sick so just use common sense and courtesy, that is the best we can do for each other.

Let's talk about Shellsburg. What is in the future for Shellsburg? What do you want for our town? Yes, we have a great little town but nothing stays the same. Things wear out, costs of repair go up, operating costs go up. Then taxes go up, and everybody loves that. Everyone knows this, but what can we do about it? This is what I believe: Nothing happens without people. You don't get more people without a place to live, so we need more houses. More houses mean more families, more families mean more students for school, more customers for local businesses, more customers mean business can expand and new businesses will pop up. When people are employed in the community, they will spend more of their income in the community and this creates a financial circle that keeps a town strong financially, as well as building community pride. OK, but how do we do it? If I could do it myself it would already be happening.

Well this is where my lack of patience starts to show. We have been working on this for three years. Three years seems like forever... deep breath... and nothing is happening. I get frustrated and forget that we have accomplished quite a lot. We have talked to landowners, developers, contractors, and bankers. The economic development group has spent countless hours working on this. The planning and zoning board has prepared for this. We are ready. At the end of the day, we do need more housing.

I think that all great things start with a dream. A person or group that is willing to take the risk and not accept failure. I also think that these risk-taking dreamers come from within the community. When I look around at our neighboring towns, I see the spark for growth came from within. Shellsburg has this person, or people, right now. I truly believe this. I hope this brief encouragement inspires you to give me a call. I can help. The city has ways to help, and I know that there will be community support.

What's the plan? Everyone can help. Keep promoting Shellsburg, keep talking to potential developers, keep improving the way our town looks, stay open to new ideas, boldly proclaim how great Shellsburg is and is going to be, and never give up. Remember, "people make things happen!"

Spread the word that Shellsburg is ready for growth.

Be safe, be healthy and be respectful.

As always, thank you for your time,

Lonnie