

**RESOLUTION 22-20**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO REQUEST A ZIP CODE CHANGE FROM THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spring Hill is serviced by both the 37174 and 37179 zip code; and

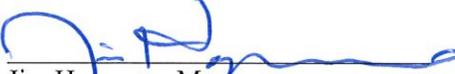
**WHEREAS**, the United States Postal Service recognizes 37174 as being Spring Hill and 37179 as being Thompsons Station; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill desire all of Spring Hill to be recognized correctly by the United States Postal Service; and

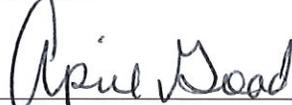
**WHEREAS**, the Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen desire the development of June Lake to be properly recognized by the United States Postal Service as being located within Spring Hill

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE** that Mayor Jim Hagaman is authorized to sign the enclosed 'Exhibit A' requesting said zip code change.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

  
Jim Hagaman, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
April Goad, City Recorder

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:

  
Patrick Carter, City Attorney



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Date: January 18, 2022

Memo To: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

From: Matt Fitterer, Alderman

RE: Resolution requesting zip code modification

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The enclosed resolution is to authorize Mayor Hagaman to send the enclosed letter to the USPS requesting a zip code change.

Previous attempts to address the matter through Congressman Green, Senator Hagerty and Representative Whitson's offices have been unsuccessful to date. Spring Hill was advised to pass a resolution to authorize the Mayor to send a letter requesting the change.

The requested change is consistent with USPS policy as identified in Section 439 of the Postal Operations Manual.



February 7, 2022

Christopher Alexander  
USPS District Manager  
**Tennessee**  
525 Royal Pkwy.  
Nashville, TN 37229-9998

Dear Mr. Alexander,

The purpose of this letter is to request that a new zip code be created for the municipal boundaries of Spring Hill, Tennessee. Currently Spring Hill is serviced by the 37174 zip code, which is recognized as Spring Hill by the USPS, and the 37179 zip code, which is recognized as Thompson's Station by the USPS. The enclosed map provided by the United States Census Bureau Geography Division helps visualize the significance.

Large parts of Spring Hill are serviced using the 37179 zip code, which creates confusion amongst residents as to which community they actually reside in, is a contributing factor to suppressed local election turnout (as voters are unaware they are eligible to vote) along with a host of other issues.

One particular property serviced under the current 37179 zip code is 2660 Buckner Lane. 2660 Buckner Lane is entirely within the Spring Hill City limits. This 774 acre farm is in the early stages of a massive development project named June Lake, [www.junelaketn.com](http://www.junelaketn.com) When complete, June Lake will have 3.9 million square feet of office space, 1.3 million square feet of retail and restaurant space, 2,900 homes and 400 hotel rooms. As this project is entirely within the city limits of Spring Hill, the project should be easily identified as such through its zip code designation as well.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) have approved a new interchange access point to I-65 as part of June Lake. TDOT has awarded a design build contract for the project, and it is slated to open to vehicles in September 2024. <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-3/i-65-buckner-road-interchange.html>

Under Section 439 of the Postal Operations Manual, postmasters are responsible for reviewing ZIP code assignments in their areas and proposing changes if operational and financial conditions justify them. Increased growth in a geographic area is the most common precipitating factor in such changes. The development of June Lake, plus the existing Spring Hill addresses being serviced by the 37179 zip code certainly meeting this criterion.



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

199 Town Center Parkway • Spring Hill, Tennessee 37174

931-486-2252, 216



[www.springhilltn.org](http://www.springhilltn.org)

According to a USPS memorandum directive to the vice presidents in charge of each of the nine postal areas dated November 18, 1999 from senior vice president for operations John E. Potter (later Postmaster General) a review of correspondence with the public on the issue of ZIP Code changes "has indicated a need for general improvement." The memorandum then reemphasized in emphatic language the expectation that USPS would give careful, objective consideration to community wishes, even if they are based only on "identity" considerations.

*"Postal policy is to offer any reasonable administrative or operational accommodation that can correct, or alleviate, the municipal identity concerns. The objective is to find ways to say "yes," not excuses for saying "no." Do not deny a request out of concern that "other communities will want the same thing." In the case of identity, customers measure the Postal Service by its impact on their daily lives. When mailing identities generate negative effects on our customers' properties, households and associations, even when caused by third-party actions, they are perceived as "bad service" and intrusive bureaucracy."*

The widespread use of ZIP Codes for non-postal purposes has exacerbated problems for those citizens whose mailing addresses do not match their actual town or city of residence, and frequently for the municipalities as well. A sample of the problems that have been brought to congressional attention includes:

- Residents who are confused about where to vote in municipal elections because they do not distinguish between their voting and mailing addresses.
- Sales tax revenues rebated by states to the cities where they are collected are often misdirected because they are collected by merchants with ZIP Codes in different jurisdictions, or by merchants who mail their products to customers knowing only their Zip Codes.
- Citizens being sent jury duty notices when they are not eligible to serve based on their actual residence.
- Emergency service vehicles being misdirected by confusion over what town a call has come from, based on mailing address information.

Each of these four issues exist to some extent in the 37179 section of Spring Hill. The potential for these issues to expand in the future with the development of June Lake is significant.

Allowing the alternative use of more than one city name for the existing zip code would also be a reasonable accommodation that would address the concerns related to proper community identification. A compromise solution that does not involve changing USPS delivery structure is to allow customers to use an alternative city name in the last line of their address, while not changing the ZIP Code.

For example, while the rapidly growing city of Windsor Heights, IA, still lacked their own post office, USPS sorting machines would accept the use of "Windsor Heights, IA, 50311" rather than requiring that customers in that area use "Des Moines, IA 50311," which is where their post office is located. USPS will also accept Windsor Heights as a valid city name for ZIP Codes 50312

and 50322 — post offices in Des Moines and Urbandale, respectively, that deliver the rest of the mail to Windsor Heights residents.

This solution would also work for the Spring Hill properties currently serviced by the 37179 zip code, including 2660 Buckner Lane, provided that USPS sorting machines can recognize Spring Hill, TN 37179 and not continue to require the use of Thompson's Station, TN 37179.

As you can see, there is significant cause and precedent for zip code 37179 to be changed within Spring Hill, or alternatively for Spring Hill to become associated with the 37179 zip code by name. It is Spring Hill's strong belief that action by the USPS can significantly aid in resolving the concerns identified within this letter and that such a change would be consistent with USPS policy and published documentation.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Jim Hagaman

Mayor of Spring Hill

[jhagaman@springhilltn.org](mailto:jhagaman@springhilltn.org)

615-969-0373

CC:

Office of Congressman Mark Green

Office of Senator Bill Hagerty

Office of Representative Sam Whitson

Office of Rural Delivery Management, USPS

James Reedy, USPS Government Relations Representative

