

# Ridgeside Officials Close Street Because of Complaints on Traffic

The town commission of Ridgeside, an "island" municipality surrounded by the city of Chattanooga, closed off one of its principal streets recently.

Petitioned by a majority of the residents of Ridgeside Road, which runs between Shallowford Road and Tunnel Boulevard in Ridgeside (Shepherd Hills), the commission effectively blocked the street's east end, driving steel posts painted a bright orange, into the concrete roadbed.

The Ridgeside Road householders maintained that the excessively heavy and fast-moving traffic on their street was intolerable to their peace and safety. The petition asked for the street closing as a last resort to solve the traffic problem.

With the increasing volume of traffic on Brainerd Road, many drivers on the north side of Brainerd Road had found it ex-

pedient in the last few years to go by Ridgeside Road to Shallowford as a quicker route to McCallie Avenue.

One traffic-troubled family pleaded the loss of three dogs; another cited several "near misses" involving their own and neighbors' children. The petitioners noted that the closed entrance to their community would inconvenience them as much as anyone; but they nevertheless felt the situation intolerable.

Mention has been made of creating a flower garden at the Tunnel Boulevard end of the street to replace the rather unsightly orange posts. Action on the project, however, has as yet not been taken.

"Dead End" signs and blinking light street barriers have been placed temporarily in strategic places around Ridgeside to warn beaten-path motorists that they must find another way home.

# CHANGES SOUGHT IN RIDGESIDE LAW

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## Amendments Proposed to Alter Election Time, Reduce City's Area

*From Chattanooga Times Bureau*

NASHVILLE — An amendment to the Ridgeside charter to provide for electing the Hamilton County town's three commissioners in the November general election every four years was introduced in the House Tuesday by the Hamilton County legislative delegation.

Another amendment would contract the Ridgeside city limits to remove some of the territory now within the municipality.

Both bills would require ratification by a two-thirds vote of the city commission before becoming effective.

The election law change would place the election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the same as state general election. Commissioners would be elected for four-year terms and take office Dec. 1 following election unless a tie developed.

In that case a runoff would be called by the county election commission within 60 days and the commissioner then chosen would take office the first of the next month after the runoff.

Each candidate would be required to have been a resident of Tennessee for a year and to have been either a resident or a free holder in Ridgeside for a year before qualifying.

Qualifying petitions would have to be signed by 10 qualified voters and filed 40 days before the municipal election.

Will Allen Wilkerson, an attorney and Ridgeside citizen who drew the bill at the request of the Ridgeside commission, said that the territorial change annexes that part of Ridgeside east of Tunnel Boulevard. He said it is a comparatively small territory and is unhabitated.

As to the change in dates for general elections, Wilkerson said that in practice Ridgeside has been holding its elections in November. The charter calls for elections on the first Tuesday in March. The proposed charter change would make the charter conform with the general practice.