

Good Morning Memphis!

The City Council is in the midst of budget season and as we kick off the month of June, we continue to work on passing a budget that is in the best interest of the citizens of Memphis. Furthermore, as we move into the summer season, please don't forget the COVID-19 vaccine is now available to youth ages 12 & up and there are vaccine appointments available at locations around the city.

You can sign up for vaccine appointments [here](#).

If you were not able to attend Tuesday's Memphis City Council Meeting, a full review is available [here](#).

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

On Tuesday, the Council approved the acceptance of the first tranche of funding for the city from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was passed by Congress in March 2021. In this first tranche of funding, the city received \$80.5 million dollars, which is subject to uses allowed by federal guidance, including but not limited to: investments in broadband, water, and sewer infrastructure, aid to businesses, nonprofits, and households negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, premium pay to essential workers, and aid to industries such as hospitality, tourism, and travel. Further guidance from the federal government is expected as we continue through budget season.



Broadband Presentation

During Public Works Committee, Interim Director Mairi Albertson of the Division of Housing and Community Development and Director John Zeanah of the Division of Planning and Development presented on the City of Memphis' Broadband Initiatives. The initiatives shared in the presentation include: intent to work in alignment with Memphis 3.0, the Smart Memphis Plan, city wide broadband strategic plan, digital literacy & education, pilot projects in South City and Soulsville, and the hiring of dedicated staff. They explained that the planning process is currently underway and a comprehensive report should be completed in fall 2021 regarding broadband expansion in the city. This process began in fall of 2020 when City of Memphis leadership convened to outline a strategy for expanding broadband access, with the main priorities being 1) to address the needs of the low-income residential community and the small business sector and 2) ensuring broadband access and affordability for these two communities is regarded as an economic and an equity requirement.

To read the Smart Memphis Plan, which aims to enhance the use of digital technology and data to improve how the City functions and serves the people, businesses, and institutions of Memphis, click [here](#).

CAESER Water Report

Dr. Brian Waldron of The University of Memphis's Department of Earth Science and Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research (CAESER) presented a report on research done on the Memphis aquifer and Davis wellhead. He provided historical research that has been done on the aquifer and on water quality, research methods and data analysis used in current research, and the results and discussion regarding water quality and chemistry based on their findings. The current 5-year commissioned water study ends in 2023 and the CAESER research team will return to present research findings periodically before the Council.

To learn more about CAESER and their research projects, click [here](#).

Lexia Learning Presentation

On Tuesday, we heard a presentation requested by Councilwoman Robinson from Karen Love of Lexia Learning on their Literacy Acceleration program and more specifically the Lexia Core 5 Reading program for kids in grades K-5. Lexia Learning is a company whose mission is to change lives through language and literacy. They have many years of experience in providing research-based literacy programming that helps students to improve their

reading, especially after experiencing learning loss or when students are below grade level in their reading.



Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Councilmen Canale and Smiley presented for discussion a resolution on the creation of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which aims to help elderly and low-income residents with funding necessary home repairs that have been a cause for citations from Code Enforcement. The resolution requested \$200,000 from the Council Community Impact Fund for FY2022 for the program. Citizens may be cited for household or sidewalk damage that violates city code, however many low-income and elderly residents do not have the means to pay for these repairs. This program, in keeping with the City Council's commitment to blight remediation and beautification, would help offset the costs of these repairs so residents would not be subject to repeat citations. There was much discussion and many Council Members joined in with suggestions for the program and the potential addition of a neighborhood clean-up component. We will continue to discuss how programs such as this can provide solutions for blight in the city.

Coming Soon

Please stay tuned for the following items that will be coming up this month:

- Budget discussions
- Third Reading – Ordinance amending the City of Memphis Code of Ordinances Chapter 9 “Health and Safety” Section 56 “Garbage Collection and Disposal” regarding landlords or property owners

In conclusion

With summer upon us, the school year coming to a close, and more in-person events and travel opportunities available to us, we can’t lose sight of the need to get vaccinated if you haven’t already. Remember, citizens ages 12 and up can now get vaccinated at locations around the city. To sign up for your vaccine appointment, visit <https://covid19.memphistn.gov/> or call 901-222-SHOT (7468).

With earnest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Colvett, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Frank Colvett, Jr.

Chairman, Memphis City Council

District 2