

**Good Evening and Happy Tuesday, Memphis!**



**“Whether you think you can, or think you can’t – you’re right.”**

Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motor Company and chief developer of the assembly line technique of mass production, hit the nail on the head when he noted that the power of forward progress begins with a spark from within.

I understand we may not all strive to be an international business magnate with aspirations to revolutionize the automobile industry.

However, we each have closely held intentions for our lives and those of our loved ones; i.e., goals as well as expectations that drive us to go the extra mile, to run the extra lap, or to reach higher than previously thought possible, ultimately with the hope that doing so will bring about a better day.

From a Council perspective, my fellow members and I approach our work in the same manner. Each day we endeavor to move our city ahead with *YOUR* benefit in mind, realizing that Memphis reaching, and surpassing, its full potential is dependent upon a willingness to believe in that all-important end, followed by the determined actions needed to bring that outcome to fruition.

The culmination of these efforts can be seen on days such as this one, and if you were not able to virtually participate in today’s meeting via live-stream on the Council website, YouTube, or 88.5 FM (WQOX), a full review is provided, [here](#).

## **Introducing the Next Phase of Memphis Entertainment:**

Remember the name Black Lens Production Film Studios, also known as BLP.

As we envision the future of Memphis entertainment, sound recordings – harkening back to the classic days of Soulsville – often come to mind.

But, what about television and film?

The Council and myself believe we can, and will, see each of the above industries flourish locally because talented men and women live here.

*Enter BLP*, a diverse, multidisciplinary team of professionals working to bring Hollywood to Whitehaven. With personnel experienced in the areas of media streaming, content creation, sync licensing, publishing, distribution, music cataloging, and strategic partnerships, BLP intends to transform nearly 100 acres of vacant land west of Elvis Presley Boulevard at Holmes Road into an all-inclusive studio campus containing the resources needed to bring international film projects to Memphis.

As we work to encourage local economic development of all types, the Council welcomed BLP's request for support. In doing so, today we passed a resolution approving the company's proposed planned development, which also received a favorable recommendation from the Land Use Control Board on June 10.

As a result of this evening's actions, BLP is poised to move ahead with its creative efforts. Furthermore, Memphis is one step closer to expanding its entertainment business offerings to the global stage.

## **Removing Blight from Memphis Neighborhoods:**

From Shelby Drive to St. Elmo Avenue, and the River to Raleigh LaGrange Road, neighborhood blight has become an entirely too-familiar issue. To this point, the Council understands your concerns as our valued communities endure the negative impact of a small but negligent few. So, today we decided that enough was enough, and in doing so approved an ordinance on third and final reading to address and prevent unlawful eviction setouts within the City of Memphis.

From a landlord-tenant perspective, evictions do occasionally occur, in which case landlords are prohibited from disturbing the tenant's personal property for forty-eight hours after the entry of a judgment for possession in favor of the owner. After such time, the landlord may discard the personal property remaining on the premises in a *reasonable* and *appropriate* manner.

However, as recently seen, *unreasonable* and *inappropriate* actions are taking place, effectively moving eviction setouts into the realm of illegal dumping.

To mitigate this phenomenon, the Council's newly approved ordinance establishes a misdemeanor violation for landlords who place tenant property on the street, sidewalk, utility easement, or public right of way. Furthermore, by way of the ordinance, eviction-related personal property set-out, abandoned, or otherwise, may not remain on the premises in question for more than seventy-two hours after placement. Finally, in addition to the misdemeanor violation, the City's Division of Solid Waste is then authorized to have such property removed at the landlord's expense.

Taken together, the Council believes this measure makes a decisive step forward in the removal of blight from Memphis neighborhoods, as we work collectively to develop safer, healthier communities for all.

### **Protecting Memphis' Historic Neighborhoods:**

Memphis has always been known for its inimitable culture. From our food to our music, we are a one-of-a-kind destination.

In many ways, the same can be said of our neighborhoods. From the early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial vernacular of the South Main District, to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century French and Italianate Victorian and Greek Revival homes of Victorian Village, on to the Colonial and Tudor Revival styles of Glenview, the Bluff City is teeming with architectural character.

However, preserving the distinctive qualities of Memphis' built environment is not guaranteed; in fact, it takes the work of everyday citizens seeking to maintain the aesthetic nature of their immediate surroundings.

One local tool used to achieve that end is the Historic Overlay District. Once such a district is created in an area, heightened regulations apply to protect historic properties from unapproved demolition and alteration.

And, although the historic designation presents an added layer of review for new construction, additions, and related improvements, the Council sees more upside than drawbacks, as the essence of our neighborhoods will survive, increasing value over a period of years.

With this in mind, today the Council approved the formation of two *new* Historic Overlay Districts. Join me in welcoming the **Vollintine Evergreen**

**Community Association and Crosstown** to Memphis' growing roster of historically designated neighborhoods!

### **Funding the Division of Fire Services:**

As we preserve our neighborhoods, we must also support the individuals who protect them – in this instance, the Division of Fire Services. Therefore, this evening we approved a resolution appropriating and allocating \$999,779.29 in funding from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust Medium and Large Truck Grant Program.

Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase medium and large-sized trucks for use by the Division as they continue their work on our behalf.

### **Maintaining our City's Vital Public Works and Engineering Infrastructure:**

Keeping in line with public safety, the Council is also dedicated to maintaining our expansive public works and engineering infrastructure. As such, today we passed a series of resolutions to ensure the maintenance and improvement of street-level technology and groundwork.

Specifically, resolutions were approved allocating and appropriating a total of \$1,590,000 in G.O. Bonds for traffic signal related upkeep. Next, a resolution was approved allocating and appropriating \$1,350,000 in G.O. Bonds for speed hump installation projects. Additionally, resolutions were passed allocating and appropriating a total of \$7,337,214.31 for asphalt paving. Taken together, these actions will work to preserve our valued Public Works and Engineering network for use by present and future generations.

### ***Dedicated To the One I Love* – Honoring the Temprees:**

Finally, when worthy circumstances arise, the Council has seen fit to name certain public roads in honor of citizens who have served this community. This evening, the legendary **Temprees** were recognized with an Honorary Street Name.

Officially formed in 1970, the Temprees consisted of three native Memphians who sang love ballads featuring falsetto vocals on We Produce Records – a subsidiary of Stax Records. In 1972, the group famously performed for 100,000+ fans at the Wattstax festival in Los Angeles, CA before spending the remainder of the decade taking the Memphis soul sound to audiences around the world with hits like "*Dedicated to the One I Love.*"

As a result of their creative contributions to the pantheon of Memphis music, the Council proudly commemorated the legacy of the Temprees by designating Joubert Avenue between Kansas Street and Riverside Boulevard as "**Temprees Avenue**" in appreciation for their artistic innovation.

**Honoring the Nation's Top Female College Golfer and Fellow Memphian – Ms. Rachel Heck:**

As the Council continues to spotlight the world-class talent within our community, this evening we also honored Ms. Rachel Heck, who was raised in Memphis, graduated from St. Agnes Academy, matriculated to Stanford University, and has now ascended to the position of *nation's top female college golfer*.

Although her accolades are too numerous to count, she was also recently named the *NCAA Individual Champion*. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Heck as she continues to excel in the classroom, on the fairway, and in life.

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***Looking Forward:***

As we move ahead, I am honored to serve you each day as part of a thirteen-Councilmember team working to transform our city into a place of opportunity for all. Stay tuned for future Council updates as we keep you informed regarding the activities taking place here at City Hall.

Yours in service,

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

Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr.  
Memphis City Council  
District 2