

**Good Afternoon and Happy Thursday, Memphis!**



On Tuesday, your Memphis City Council convened to bring key improvements to the city we each call home. If you were not able to virtually participate in the meeting via live-stream on the Council website, YouTube, or 88.5 FM (WQOX), a full review is provided, [here](#).

**Establishing Well Head Overlay Protection Districts for the City of Memphis:**

Efforts to protect our natural water resources have produced considerable excitement, and robust discussion, over the last nine months – all for good reason. To be clear, the Council is dedicated to keeping our natural landscape safe for Memphians present and future. However, with various proposals received on how to best reach that end, we were measured in our approach to reaching a formal decision.

On Tuesday, after careful consideration as a body, I am happy to announce that an ordinance was unanimously approved on third and final reading to amend the Unified Development Code to create Well Head Overlay Protection Districts within the City of Memphis. The action protects the quantity and quality of the City of Memphis' public water supply "from land uses at or near City wells within the Well Head Protection Areas," ultimately to guard against pollutants, waste material, hazardous and contaminant substances.

Altogether, the Council views this legislative decision as both positive and necessary to securing healthy outcomes for Memphians of every stripe.

See the Substitute Ordinance No. 5795, [here](#).

## **Advancing Public Transportation within the City of Memphis:**

Along these same lines, as we seek paradigmatic change capable of improving Memphians' lives in tangible ways, public transportation must also be discussed. With five million passenger trips provided in 2020 alone, Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) is a linchpin within our local economy, taking riders to work, school, home, and countless daily destinations in between.

As such, with 280 square miles served, MATA keenly understands the need to be as efficient as possible on your behalf.

*Enter: Transit Vision* – developed in simultaneity with Memphis 3.0, having received extensive input from Memphis citizens, stakeholders, and local elected officials to transform the future of public travel options within our diverse community.

To this point, when reimagining MATA, Memphians *just like you* emphasized their desire to see (1) new and redesigned bus routes that change how people connect across the city, (2) jobs that were reachable by public transit within one hour, and (3) jobs reachable for minority residents and low-income residents within one hour.

As a result, mConnect, Memphis' *first* Bus Rapid Transit system, was created to provide access to MATA vehicles every ten minutes on specific thoroughfares during peak travel times, and direct connections to 18 bus routes, thereby improving service across the entire MATA network.

Upon review, the Council hears you loud and clear, and thus supports the City's endeavor to provide MATA service that is both effective *and* innovative. As such, on Tuesday we passed a series of resolutions to reach that end. First, a resolution was approved appropriating \$1M in General Obligation Bonds for Transit Vision. Second, a resolution was passed appropriating \$4.5M in General Obligation Bonds for the Midtown Area Connector Bus Rapid Transit system, designed to connect Downtown Memphis and the University of Memphis with unparalleled frequency. In sum, the \$5.5M funded amount represents a watershed in the newly redefined landscape of local travel.

## **Improving Memphis' Parks System:**

On a related note, as we promote an enhanced sense of connectedness, the Council finds equal benefit in efforts that improve our local parks and outdoor spaces, as these locations serve as vital meeting points for countless Memphians throughout our community.

In doing so, on Tuesday we unanimously approved four resolutions for a total amount of \$1.2M. The decision comprises (1) Tennis center maintenance and construction within Districts 4 and 7, (2) Golf course repair, redesign, and cart path re-paving at Audubon Golf Course, (3) Maintenance at Lichterman Nature Center, and (4) Improvements to the Memphis Zoo.

Altogether, Tuesday's work on behalf of our valued parks system will help ensure that Memphians of every age have safe and healthy destinations for outdoor enrichment for years to come.

### **Funding the Divisions of Fire and Police Services:**

However, as a world-class city, it is critical that we support the efforts of our Divisions of Fire and Police Services. Therefore, on Tuesday evening the Council passed three resolutions with our valued first responders in mind.

First, a resolution was approved accepting and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$100,000 from the State of Tennessee, Office of Criminal Justice Programs. The dollars will be used to fund the Memphis Police Department's crime mitigation efforts, overtime, supplies, and equipment.

Additionally, a second resolution was passed transferring an allocation in the amount of \$115,000 for the renovation of Fire Station 11.

Taken together, the two-part effort provides key resources to the *Best in Blue* and the *Best in Red* as they protect us all each day.

### **Honoring Memphians Who Serve:**

When worthy circumstances arise, the Council has seen fit to name certain public roads in honor of citizens who serve this community. This week, **Dr. Tonya Lyons** was recognized with an honorary street name. Dr. Lyons is a force of nature as the President and CEO of New Image Family Dentistry and Founder of Solid Rock Development Corporation, both located within Southeast Memphis.

A true renaissance woman, Dr. Lyons exemplifies excellence by utilizing her professional training as a 19-year practicing dentist and history as a dedicated philanthropist to serve the Greater Memphis community. Most recently, her selfless acts of kindness were on full display when, near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, she partnered with Vondrehl Paper Company to address paper towel, toilet paper, and diaper shortages within underserved neighborhoods.

With her past, present, and continued positive works in mind, on Tuesday the Council celebrated Dr. Lyons' spirit of altruism by designating East Raines Road between Riverdale Road and Ross Road as "**Dr. Tonya Lyons Road**" in appreciation of her contributions to Memphians in need.

**In Memoriam:**

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize the recent passing of two local first responders. This week, Memphis Police Officer Jimmie Alexander "Alex" Shindler passed away. He was a twelve-year veteran with the Memphis Police Department. Also, last week Lieutenant Travis L. Isbell passed away. He was a twenty-three-year veteran with the Memphis Fire Department. Over the course of their respective careers, both men served the Memphis community valiantly, routinely exhibiting the spirit of dedication and commitment to excellence that defines the Divisions of Police and Fire Services.

As we mourn this monumental loss, our hearts and our prayers are with their families and colleagues. Please join me in honoring their legacy of service rendered to the betterment of mankind.

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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.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr.  
Memphis City Council  
District 2