

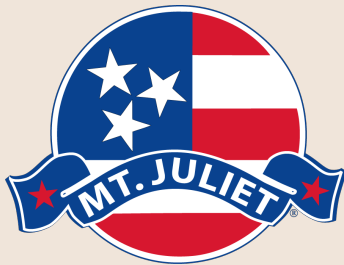
JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Jennifer Milele

Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

We are finally off to a brand-new year and I know we all are ready for it. I wish everyone a happy, safe, blessed, and prosperous new year.

The MJ Board of Commissioner's (BOC) appointed Bill Trivett as the new District 2 City Commissioner to fill Mayor Maness's former seat. We now have a full Board and I look forward to working alongside Commissioner Trivett. Commissioner Hefner and myself nominated Bill who carried a three-vote majority with Mayor Maness being the third. I thank the other five candidates that applied, specifically Linda Elam, who was my first nomination and only carried my vote in the first round. I was honored to get to vote on a new appointment to fill the vacancy because 1 ½ years ago, I was a candidate bidding for the appointment of my seat in District 4.

Congratulations to FDMJ Captain Brent Blamires, and Engineers Matthew Talley and Caleb Roberts from B Shift, Engine 104 Crew of Station #1 (Belinda Pkwy.). During the BOC meeting on January 25, Chief Luffman and Deputy Chief Edwards presented them with a special Life-saving Award for their heroic acts of service last November. The crew all worked together applying early defibrillation and CPR on a male heart attack patient who then went into a seizure and stopped breathing. After working on the patient, he began breathing again and was transported to the hospital. He had stints put in and walked out of the hospital three days later and is doing well. Saving lives and saving the quality of life is the mission of our brave firefighters and we are very thankful for them and all they do, and for their service and dedication.

I am so excited that MJPD K-9 Majlo has been released to return to full duty and I look forward to joining him and Cpl. Barth on another ride-along soon.

Sales tax numbers continue to look good so keep shopping local and let's keep that tax revenue here at home. So far in this fiscal budget year (July/June) we are almost \$2.5M over last year's actual collections.

Business status:

Oscar's Taco Shop will be going in the old My Pie location on Providence Pkwy. next to Burger Republic. Opening is estimated April/May.

Mutts & Meows I just discovered this place myself. They have an area you can take your dogs and bath them, as well as a corner with props for taking their pictures. If you haven't seen it yet, they are located next to Dollar General on NMJRD.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1) Mundy Park improvements: The Parks Director is currently still in the preliminary planning stage to bring forth ideas along with costs. I will be meeting him and a contractor this week to discuss ideas. Once he has completed his proposal, I am hopeful the next step will be a public BOC work session.

2) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee): Our first event for the year is planned on Sunday, May 2nd which will be a bicycle ride so get your bikes ready. Time and meeting place to be announced. Walk Bike Nashville just held their 4th Annual Pedestrian Memorial to remember 39 people who lost their lives in 2020 on the streets of Nashville, which was their deadliest year to date. Let's all be mindful and watch out for our pedestrians, as well as cyclists, here in MJ.

3) MJ Emissions Testing Center: Our testing center located in Mundy Park had some electrical issues. The city replaced all the wiring and it is now back open for business.

4) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). January: 14 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 17 arrests/apprehensions. All but one were from out of county or out of state. One was a wanted person from MJ.

As a side note, it was recently questioned about these readers alerting officers to wanted persons, not necessarily a stolen vehicle, and the answer is yes. If there is a wanted person by law enforcement for criminal activity associated with a certain license plate, GS will alert. Alerts also include safety such as Amber and Silver alerts.

5) COVID-19 Vaccine in Wilson County: Hopefully most of those eligible have received their first round of the vaccine by now and are awaiting notification of the second shot. I do know there are some that have not received the first shot yet and are still on a waiting list. Please know that if the health department notifies you of your first appointment, you have 48 hours to make contact. If you do not contact them within the 48 hours, you are no longer on the waiting list and will have to start over. If you are unsure of whether or not you are still on the waiting list, you can call 866-442-5301 for verification.

According to WCHD, citizens are encouraged to continue calling the number provided (615-444-5325) to schedule your first appointment, or visit the website link:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/wilson_county_covid_vaccination.

The WCHD has now added Saturdays to their vaccination schedule, which puts their administering of the vaccine at six days. Local pharmacies and Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital (VWCH) have now been certified to administer the vaccines as well, which will still follow the phase-in schedule set by the state.

WCHD is run by the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). The city of MJ will continue to do its best to help pass along information as it becomes available to us. Thank you all for your patience through this important process.

6) Ordinance to Amend City Code: This amendment to the city code is to comply with Tennessee state law to buy/sell beer (less than 8% alcohol) from convenience/grocery stores at 10 am on Sunday mornings. In 2002 MJ opted out of the Titan Law which set the time for 12 pm. In 2011, the opt in/out option was removed from state law. Since the city's current ordinance to buy/sell is still at 12 pm, this BOC vote would make our current ordinance comply with state law. According to state law, liquor-by-the-drink (LBD) and packaged liquor stores can already sell any alcohol beginning at 10 am on Sundays. However, these businesses set their own operating hours. According to discussions with city attorney, this is my understanding and should be a BOC agenda item Monday, February 8.

7) Ordinance Amendment: This Zoning Ordinance Amendment proposes to remove automotive-related businesses from Commercial General (CG), with the exception of auto home supply stores. An example of CG is Lebanon Road where there are 19 automobile-related businesses within a one-mile section. This should be a BOC agenda item Monday, February 8.

8) WEMA relocation: FDMJ Chief Luffman called a work session with the BOC a couple of weeks ago to discuss Mayor Hutto's plans of relocating WEMA ambulances. Wilson County is building two new stations that will include fire service and ambulance service in the Mt. Juliet area. The ambulances would be pulled from their current locations in FDMJ on Belinda Pkwy. (Station 1) and E. Hill Street (Station 3). The new proposed locations of WEMA would be on Clemmons Road near Curd Road and south off Central Pike, a short distance west of SMJRD, which is in the county.

This would leave MJ with three basic options to explore for ambulance service over the course of this year: 1) MJ to form its own ambulance service; 2) Contract with a private ambulance service; 3) Keep things the way they are with WEMA. It is my understand that the county has no plans of placing WEMA inside the new north FDMJ location off Lebanon Road. This would mean that only one ambulance presence would be located inside the city limits, which would be on Clemmons Drive.

The primary reason for the relocation of WEMA has to do with the county paying monthly rent to MJ for the presence of WEMA sharing space with FDMJ, according to Mayor Hutto.

9) Speed survey: MJPd will soon be conducting a speed survey on Providence Trail between Providence Pkwy. and Belinda Pkwy.

10) Rebuilding of WWMS & SCEC: You probably saw by now, but the Wilson County School Board (WCSB) will begin taking bids on

rebuilding West Wilson Middle School and Stoner Creek Elementary so the Board will know how much money the district will need. The building process was estimated to be around 14 months for an elementary school and 18-20 months for a middle school. There has been about a \$15M discrepancy between the insurance company and WCSB.

11) City of MJ employment opportunities: The city is looking to hire full time positions for a Sewer Operator 1 and a Building Inspector. If interested you can apply online at www.mtjuliet-tn.gov and click on the Employment icon.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Right turn lane exit from I-40: Striping has completed and there is now a right turn lane exiting off the MJ 226C exit (facing Tire Discounters).

NMJRD I-40 overpass widening: The actual construction phase has begun and road closures are expected (at this point) to be only during the nighttime hours. Thank you in advance for your patience as we all move forward together. Completion is estimated to be spring of 2022. There have been three accidents so far southbound because of the lane shift, so please be aware of this and be careful.

NMJRD REZONE PROPOSAL: The potential rezone from OPS (Office Professional Service) to CTC (Commercial Town Center) at 808 & 830 NMJRD was deferred on second reading at the BOC meeting on January 11. This was two of our small business owners located across from West Wilson Middle School, whose businesses were destroyed by the tornado. After I took the time to express my support for what the two business owners were wanting to do, I further explained to the public what possibly could be built on any one of those empty lots under OPS with no rezone. I then made my justification for a no vote, specifically because of the precedence we would be setting for the remaining lots under a CTC rezone. A few days after the deferral, the two business owners withdrew their request. Please know that another business owner is building a one level office building with five tenant suites. This was not a rezone, therefore it did not come before the BOC, but whatever goes there is already allowed under currently OPS zoning.

Windtree Pines: This development has been in the planning stage for about five years and is located at the old Windtree Golf Course off Nonaville Road. It passed with a positive recommendation from the Planning Commission Thursday, January 21, 2021 and should be on the BOC agenda Monday, February 8. It is on 193 acres and includes 373 single family homes and 50 townhomes (6 acres).

Plans submitted: There are plans that have been submitted to City Planner for a medical office building and car wash on Belinda Pkwy. next to St. Thomas (I think it has a new name now), across from Two Rivers Ford. This will not come before the

BOC because it is not a rezone. I have only seen the drawing at this point.

Lebanon Road sidewalks: Phase 1 sidewalk project on Lebanon Road is expected to be complete in approximately a month. Phase 2 is estimated to begin next winter and Phase 3 by fall 2022.

Lebanon Road widening from Park Glen to Golden Bear: This project is currently in the preliminary design and EPA stages. It is too early to estimate a construction timeline at this point.

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: Plans are finalized and the city is working with Kroger to acquire ROW and easements. Once they are acquired, it will go out for bid. Construction is estimated to begin this spring and completed this fall. Please remember this project was approved several years ago.

Roundabout on S. Greenhill Road: Construction is estimated to begin next winter and be completed by fall 2022.

Three new traffic signals: The BOC recently approved three new traffic signals; S. Greenhill/Lebanon Road; NMJRD/Oakhall Drive; and NMJRD/Curd Road (next to Post Office). I supported all of these, including the one at Curd Road, but I voted no because of this particular one, for the purposed of making a statement in order to express a safety concern regarding the location of the exit from the Post Office. Since the PO involves the federal government, they have not shown interest in relocating the exit onto Curd Road at this time. My hope is that a solution of rerouting that exit can be accomplished at some point. If my vote was needed to pass the traffic signal projects, I would have voted yes, but the Board already had a majority. My no vote was primarily for the safety concern to be on record. The signal at S. Greenhill/Lebanon Road will be installed before the other two, but I don't have a timeline.

Left turn lane: The EB left turn lane into Two Rivers Ford is expected to be underway this spring. This is located at the traffic signal at Belinda Pkwy. and Providence Trail.

Road widening projects: There are other widening projects around the city as well, most of which involves TDOT, but they are also in the early stages and too soon to estimate a construction timeline.

Bell Air Project: Discussions about the Bell Air Project is back on the table. This was a proposed 55-acre development from about 10 years ago located on Beckwith Road between I-40 and Posey Hill Road. Only discussions at this point.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next BOC meeting is Monday, February 8, 6:30 pm at City Hall.

The Board has been meeting in person and the public is welcome to come and/or submit comments/questions to Sheila

Luckett until 4 pm prior to the meeting at sluckett@mtjuliet-tn.gov. The meeting is also aired live on MJTV (Comcast channel 3 or TDS channel 6) and on the city's website. *(The agenda is not out yet, but the following items are expected to be included).*

- 1) Windtree Pines development off Nonaville Road.
- 2) Ordinance to Amend City Code to change the time to buy/sell beer and liquor by the drink on Sunday mornings.
- 3) Zoning Ordinance Amendment to remove automotive-related businesses from Commercial General (CG).

If you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, comments, complaints, or just something to share, please let me know. If you would like to sign up for my monthly email newsletters, you will find the options to do so on my website. You can also send me your email address and I will add it to the newsletter/updates list.

It is an honor to serving you and being your citizen advocate. Thank you very much.

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