

By Ken Lay

Patriotic music played as the students, faculty, administration and staff at Karns High School paused to remember the biggest terrorist attack on American soil and pay tribute to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

On this cloudy morning on the 16th anniversary of a terrorist attack that brought the United States to a temporary standstill, the Patriot Day ceremony began with the Karns High School marching band playing the National Anthem.

The school's choral group then sang a rendition of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" as the Air Force JROTC raised the flag to half-staff. The band also played a patriotic piece and Karns JROTC Senior Aerospace Instructor Lt. Col. John O'Donnell read a narrative recounting the day in 2001 when four separate planes were hijacked by terrorists and crashed into the World Trade Center in New York at the



By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County is being asked to make some major changes to its zoning regulations and the commissioners are beginning their learning curve about things like rural retreats, supportive housing and self-service storage facilities. The Metropolitan Planning Commission is proposing the changes and the Knox County Commission has scheduled a public hearing before considering the changes in a second and final reading next Monday.

Recently several commissioners had a special meeting with MPC to get more information about the changes. Commissioners Charlie Busler, John Schoonmaker, Evelyn Gill and Michelle Carringer met with MPC Director Gerald Green and his staff.

The growing number of events like festivals, gather-

several zones, including low density residential, general residential, estates, transition and planned residential districts, are currently illegal.

Green told the meeting the proposed ordinance, a change to the Knox County Code, is to "enable legal operation" on those activities that are not currently addressed in county zoning ordinances. He said the idea has been to study ordinances in other counties, preserve family farms, protect neighborhoods, insure bathroom facilities, require adequate parking, etc.

Busler, who represents north Knox County which contains several rural areas outside of Halls and Powell, questioned the ordinance's requirements of 10, 20 and 50 acres for events. He also asked about the setback requirements from other properties.

Green replied that the re-