Stephanie Welch, Councilman Nick Pavlis and South Knox County Board of Education member Amber Rountree at the gathering to celebrate Pavlis' service to the community.

at-large member, toppling incumbent Bill Bailey to win a spot on the council. After Knoxvillians instituted term limits Pavlis made history by being the only former councilman to win an election from a seat from another district. To date, Nick Pavlis remains the only former city councilman able to make a political comeback. It was all the more impressive as Pavlis won the right to represent the South Knoxville district when he was not a native of the area. Pavlis ran promising to be an aggressive advocate for South Knoxville and proudly cites the downtown renovations, as well as the numerous open for hiking and biking and driven hundreds of people weekly.

Real estate values have risen in South Knoxville and houses are selling quickly, a big turnaround from the time before Nick Pavlis returned to the city council. Pavlis had again predicted just such an impact once the Urban Wilderness area was completed. Many long time residents of South Knoxville have been astonished by how quickly homes in the area are selling.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero was among those honoring Nick Pavlis and she introduced the councilman, saying, "I have truly enjoyed working with you." "You are a leader," Rogero, herself a resident of South Knoxville, admitted much of the credit for projects and improvements in the community belong to Nick Pavlis. "A lot of the credit for South Knoxville goes to Nick," Rogero said. The mayor chuckled saying she has received complaints "South Knoxville gets everything."

Pavlis was emotional when he stood up in a room packed with friends and supporters. "This is hard," he confessed after being introduced by Mayor Rogero. "I don't really know what to say." Pavlis collected himself and told the audience he had made a series of five promises when he attempted to regain a seat on the Knoxville City Council. Pavlis recounted the promises he made to the people of South Knoxville and proudly announced he safety of residents, and improving the quality of life were among the promises he made when seeking to return to the City Council. The last was being accessible to the people who elected him. For the past eight years, Nick Pavlis has held quarterly "Coffee With the Councilman" meetings where anyone could approach him for help, discuss issues, or even relate a gripe. Those meetings were in addition to the high profile Pavlis kept in regularly attending community, neighborhood and

Nick Pavlis came to the profession of politics genetically, being the son of James and Bill Pavlis. Bill Pavlis served on the Knox County Commission, including a stint as chairman, as well as the Knoxville City Council. Yet when Nick wanted to run for an at-large seat, father Bill advised against it. Laughing, Nick Pavlis remembered with levity nobody thought he could win a spot in the run off, much less defeat one of the powerful incumbents in an at-large race. Pavlis remembered a scant number of friends believed he could

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Ambulance issue comes up again

By Pete Gawda

The ambulance issue came up again at the at the Monday, September 28 meeting of the Knox County Commission when Commissioner Charles Busler brought up the recent contract renewal with AMR for ambulance service.

"I understand there are still some concerns about contractual language and fees and how citizens are being charged," Busler said. He had received a complaint that day about a citizen receiving a bill for ambulance services when they were not home. "I just had concerns for my constituents. I am upset that we have a contract and I don't know if it is being followed. From my answers I don't think it is being followed."

While admitting that improved fire protection led to his having reduced insurance rates Busler said he sent a letter to the legal department for clarification. He said the contract calls for a five-member board to approve rate increases. He said he was told there was no need for the board since there were no rate increases. He claimed the rate for family service had increased from $569 to $75. While admitting $35 was not much of an increase, he asked, "Who approved the $75?"

Law director Bud Armstrong offered the opinion that the $59 was a set floor. If a household met that definition, the fee was $59. If a household did not meet

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