

being the only former councilman to win an election from a seat from another district. To date, Rick Paris remains the only former city councilman able to make a political comeback. It was all the more impressive as Paris won the right to represent the South Knoxville district when he was not a native of the area. Paris even promising to be an aggressive advocate for South Knoxville and proudly cites the downtown renovations, as well as the numerous

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

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogers was among those

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

Paris was emotional when he stood up in a room packed with friends and supporters. "This is hard," he confessed after being introduced by Mayor Rogers. "I don't really know what to say." Paris 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. Paris recounted the promises he made to the people of South Knoxville and proudly announced he

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, Rick Paris 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 Paris kept in regularly attending community, neighborhood and

Commission, including a stint as chairman, as well as the Knoxville City Council. Yet when Rick wanted to run for an at-large seat, father Bill advised against it. Laughing, Rick Paris remembered virtually nobody thought he could win a spot in the sun belt, much less defeat one of the powerful incumbents in an at-large race. Paris remembered a scant number of friends believed he could

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Ambulance issue comes up again

By Pete Gwenda

The ambulance issue came up again at the Monday, September 25 meeting of the Knoxville

"I understand there are still some concerns about contractual language and fees and how citizens are being charged."

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

department for clarification. He said the contract calls for a five-member board to approve rate increase. He said he was told

was not much of an increase, he asked, "Who approved the \$25?"

Law director Bud Armstrong