

term rental amendment approved

By Mike Steely
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The decision on an amendment to the short-term rental ordinance was reversed in last week's Knoxville City Council meeting. The amendment, which would require rental owners to notify their neighbors if they request an STR operating permit, was brought up again by Vice Mayor Duane Grieve after failing its initial motion.

Grieve, who was chairing his last council meeting in the absence of Mayor Madeline Rogero, got the one additional vote he needed from Councilman Marshall Stair. Nick Pavlis, who was absent from the meeting on company business, would have voted NO and only council members Mark Campen and Brenda Palmer voted against the motion.

Palmer called the amendment an "unneeded action."



HOLIDAY SPIRIT SWELLS IN FOUNTAIN CITY

By Mike Steely
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There may not have been a Christmas Parade in Fountain City this year but members of the Fountain City Lions Club and Fountain City Town Hall may have started another tradition.

Friday evening, with hundreds of residents present, a celebration of the holiday, complete with cookies and hot chocolate, led to the lighting of the community Christmas Tree. The tree stands in the Fountain City

Park gazebo and remained dark as the crowd gathered.

Festive Christmas music was performed by the Central High School Band and carols were sung by Matt Parks and the Central High School Bobcat Company (pictured above). Three small girls from Fountain City Presbyterian Church sang sweetly to the building crowd.

Commissioner Michelle Carringer, dressed in an elf outfit, acted as host and recognized those taking part in the ceremony. She told

The Focus that when the parade was cancelled the groups talked about something special and the tree lighting and festivities resulted.

Following the lighting of the tree Jolly Old Santa Claus appeared and parents and grandparents lined up with their children for their turn with Santa.

Adding to the festivities was a light snow fall. The Christmas Tree Lighting at Fountain City Park was all anyone could hope for to bring about the holiday spirit.