

...School Principal Gary ... rights, from new ... and ... of Knox County Purchasing Department (far left, back row) ... officials, Knox County Schools personnel, and community leaders on a construction progress tour of the new Gibbs Middle School this past Friday. The Gibbs Middle Project is 74% complete and within budget. The new school is scheduled to open in August for the 2018 school year.

MPC delays sidewalk requirement

By Pete Gavala

At their meeting Thursday, Dec. 14 the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission revisited the sidewalk issue. After considerable discussion on the issue at the October MPC meeting, the commission voted 7 to 6 to require developers to put

in sidewalks. The new requirements were to go into effect Feb. 1, 2018.

At last week's meeting the MPC, upon recommendation of staff, voted to delay implementation of the new regulations for one year. Staff offered several reasons for the delay including

developing a master plan, formulating sidewalk construction standards and developing a procedure for processing waivers.

Commissioner Janice Tisher noted that it is difficult for developers when they hear at the last minute sidewalks are required. She wanted to give them advance

notice.

"We have to look 20 years down the road and see where this county is going" was the opinion of MPC Chair Rebecca Longstre.

Commissioner Art Clancy stated that it was unfair for a developer to come up with

sidewalks without any connectivity to existing sidewalks. "We need a plan in place," he asserted, adding that there are a lot of details to be worked out.

Robert Whaley's request for final plat approval for a two-lot subdivision on N. Broadway at

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New council members face first regular meeting

By Mike Steely
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The five new members of Knoxville City Council join that body Tuesday evening and encounter an agenda full of items such as signing a Nashville legislative lobbyist, grants for 22 units of affordable housing, an urban greenway project and upping the funds for a streetscape project and renovation of an old building.

The law department is asking the council to renew an agreement with Fred D. (Tony) Thompson Jr., the son of former Senator Fred Thompson, to

increasing the contract funds for the Sanitary Laundry Building roof repairs for removing windows and concrete panels is also on the agenda. The ongoing contract with Anderson Lumber Company would fund an additional \$49,962 bringing the total cost to just over \$613,000.

Other items on the new council's agenda include an agreement with Rogers Perdue for fuel for city vehicles managed by Fleet Services and to lease property in the Regency Business Park at 900 East Hill Avenue for the Fire Department.

