

representations. Each of the commissioners except for Evelyn Gil and Brad Anderson asked questions.

Beeler said he was born in Tuckertown within the district and worked 30 years in the Register of Deeds office. Beeler pointed out that the north and east Knox County districts had lots of land for future development, praised the three new schools there and cited

Beeler's earlier tenure as the south of office from Judge Kristi Harris. He was selected from several applicants to serve the remaining term of the 8th District commissioner, Dave Wright, who was elected to the Tennessee Legislature.

The op-ed critic as the areas biggest problem.

When asked by Commissioner Landon Jay if he might run for re-election after serving Wright's two remaining term years, Beeler said he has "no idea, no plans."

When asked why he would be the best person for the position,

Beeler said he was "teachable and he knows how Knox County works."

Prior to the vote Commissioner Randy Smith said he would have preferred a special election but said the cost of holding one was prohibitive.

Chairman Hugh Nystrom said

the commission "has a deep berry of qualified applicants."

With 50 commissioners voting, a total of six votes were needed to select the new 8th District commissioner.

Commissioner Anders nominated Beeler and Commissioner Charles Butler suggested

Jay, which eliminated her. Nystrom changed his vote and went for Beeler.

In the final round of voting Jay joined Carringer, Smith, Nystrom, Anders and Rigg to give Beeler the nod. Gil, Schoonmaker, Butler and Daley voted for Sanders.

Beeler was sworn in immediately after the decision and will serve until August 25, 2009.

## Knox County to host 20th Annual Holiday Festival of Lights

Knox County's 20th annual Holiday Festival of Lights at The Cove at Concord Park kicks off Friday, Dec. 22 with Mayor Gene Jacobs hosting a meet and greet and passing out

thousands of lights to the trees.

Although the event is free, Knox County will collect non-perishable food items for The Love Kitchen. This nonprofit pro-

