

new growth plan delayed until July

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After hours of debate and several motions the Knox County Commission voted last week to postpone any action on revising its Knox County growth plan until July. The divided commission asked that the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Staff should be looking into what it will take to rework the plan, how much it would cost, how long it would take and if an outside consultant should be hired.

The meeting went well over four hours and much of that was taken up with a back and forth disagreement on when revising the growth plan should be taken. The debate centered on a motion by Commissioner Brad Anders to postpone any action until this summer, giving the legislature time to decide if the state-required Urban Growth Plan will be renewed. The commission had discussed asking state legislature to exempt Knox County from this plan. If freed from the state's Urban Growth Plan requirements, the idea would be to work on the county's own plan.

Several citizens addressed the issue including developer Scott Davis and community activist Kevin Murphy. Davis said the Urban Growth Plan is "no longer relevant" and Murphy called for updating the county's growth plan and hold-

