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Bicycle lane marking, Jackson Avenue ramps, Arthur Seymour honors

The Knoxville City Council meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday to vote on a variety of items including honors for the well-respected late attorney Arthur Seymour, Jr. He appeared before the council many times over the years and earned the respect of both city and county officials

\$99.421 in an agreement with Superior Pavement Marking, Inc. for the 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Pavement Marking Program. The council will also vote on an agreement with the state on adding additional funding for the replacement of the Jackson Avenue ramps at Gay Street.

The Ed Shouse Drive Bridge

Replacement Project may get Knoxville-Knox County Planning \$48,830 in an agreement with and add an ordinance permit-Volkert, Inc. for repairs in Phase Il of the effort.

Also on the agenda is \$115,000 for the purchase or condemnation plus moving expenses on 23 Avenue Sidewalk Project.

The council may also adopt the One Year Plan prepared by

ting the mayor to adopt any seal, insignia, coat of arms, emblem, sign or logo used by the city and its various departments

Two appeals are before the tracts of property for the Wilson board: one from Brian Ewers over a Board of Zoning Appeals decision prohibiting a three-story building on West Blount Avenue.

ing a planning commission decision to rezone property on Strawberry Plains Pike. Knoxville Utilities Board is

asking for a settlement with the city In Lieu of Taxes for the electric and gas system

The police department is asking for an agreement with

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petition last week at Hardin Valley Academy. Photo Submitted.

HVA senior Moro learns by organizing Special Olympics Track Meet

By Ken Lay

Noah Moro and members of the Hardin Valley Academy student-mentor program saw the fruits of their labor on Monday, April

Moro oversaw the running of the 2019 Special Olympics track meet on a

cool but sunny day at HVA

It was a project that began to take shape back in the dog days of August, shortly after Moro began his senior year and his final year of high school football.

The event lasted two days and began in the

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Above, Hardin Valley Academy senior Noah Moro organized the 2019 Greater Knoxville Special Olympics Track and Field Meet. Moro, a football player for the Hawks, also competes on the school's Unified Track Meet, which teams high school athletes with Special Olympians. Photo by Ken Lay. Left, Athletes compete in the 100-meter dash at the 2019 Special Olympics Track Meet last week at Hardin Valley Academy.

Heated exchange explodes between commissioners

By Mike Steely

Sparks flew as Knox County Commissioners Larsen Jay and Evelyn Gill faced off in the Knox County Commission work session last week, with Jay leveling misconduct charges against Gill and Gill calling the allegations by Jay "unacceptable."

Jay, who co-chairs the Joint Education Committee along with board of education member Evetty Satterfield, said Gill should be ousted from her seat on that committee because of her history as a Knox County Special Education teacher. He cited a civil suit against her involving charges she abused an autistic student.

At times the confrontation grew heated and, during the argument, Jay said that if his charges were untrue, "Then, by God, vote it down."

Gill called on Knox County Law Director Bud Armstrong who, for several instances during the discussion, told the commission that charges against Gill were unsubstantiated. Armstrong reminded the commission that Gill was investigated and not found guilty by the state, her teacher's license was reinstated and she had been offered her job back with the school system.

Jay cited Gill's name in a civil lawsuit against her which the law department settled out of court for a reported \$93,000. Armstrong rebutted by reminding the commission that the lawsuit also included the superintendent of schools and the principal at the school. He said it might cost more to defend the case than the settlement and he didn't want to harm the autistic child by putting it

on the stand to testify. The law director again reminded the commission that the charges against Gill resulted in "no indictment" and said she was exonerated. Gill had resigned her teaching position following the

When Jay brought up what he said was Gill's personnel record of other misconduct while a school employee Gill said Jay was going too far and that Jay was "bringing up legal issues" by introducing her work history. Jay said his information came

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Commission may change zoning procedure

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

week's long Knox County procedures. Over the past lution of the Knox County ning Transporation Plan- on zoning." Commission- Dailey said the idea could Commission work session was a move to require on the commission has on for a vote at tonight's zoning changes to come to ranged from disagreeing regular meeting. Currently cess is "working well" and ing for a problem." that body first instead of with decisions of the plan-zoning changes begin with said the proposed change starting with the Knoxville- ners to threats to withdraw Knox Planning Authority.

which could add at least 30 days to the process Schoonmaker's resolution commission for a decision.

of rezoning, is another Almost unnoticed in last further away from current nance be initiated by resocompletely from the city- ning commission where a changes 60 to 90 days. The additional step, county organization.

"to require all text amendan application to the plandecision is made and the Commissioner John change goes to the county

"I'm not sure what probattempt to pull the county ments to the Zoning Ordi- lem you are trying to fix," said Knoxville-Knox Planfew years the discussion Commission" was passed ning Manager Jeff Welch. Welch said the current procould back up zoning

> zoning changes should "come to us first" but change to "Which came end."

said the change might egg? "force us to be experts

proposal "a solution look-Commissioner Charles been expedited.

Busler said the change

Commissioner Larsen Jay first, the chicken or the

Commissioner Carson er Randy Smith called the shorten requests and sited two incidents in the past where rezoning could have

Law Director Richard would "add an additional Armstrong said the pro-Schoonmaker said step" and Chairman Hugh posed process adds "thirty Nystrom compared the days on the back or front

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