



The Knoxville Focus

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Mannis wins primary, faces Kincannon in November



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Knoxville mayoral candidate Eddie Mannis addresses supporters after Tuesday night's primary at the Grande Event Center. Mannis, the top vote getter, will face Indya Kincannon in November's general election.

By Ken Lay

Eddie Mannis may have been the top vote getter in Tuesday night's Knoxville City mayoral primary. But he knows his work is far from done.

"The hard work is just beginning," Mannis said in his speech to supporters. "I cannot do this alone. I need your support and most of all, I need your vote."

Mannis addressed the crowd at The Grande Event Center after it was clear that he and Indya Kincannon would emerge from a crowded field of mayoral candidates to advance to the November general election. He thanked his friends, family, supporters and campaign team.

But he cautioned his team not

to get complacent with Tuesday results, which saw him get nearly 37% of the vote.

"It's been a phenomenal ground operation that you normally don't see in a mayoral election and I'm proud of the team for all of their hard work," Mannis said. "As you've seen from the screens here this evening, the hard work has paid off."

"Take one hour or two off, but we have to hit the ground running tomorrow, or maybe the next day. We have to work to get the vote again or maybe for the first time."

During his speech, Mannis showed humility and gratitude for those who voted for him.

"I'm so humbled that the voters

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Primary by the numbers

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City general election ballot is set and Eddie Mannis will face Indya Kincannon in the race to become the next mayor. Mannis led in both early voting and absentee ballots and ended up Tuesday evening with 36.64% of the vote.

Kincannon inched out Marshall Stair with 29.13% of the vote to Stair's 26.98%.

The real surprise of the evening was Amella Parker topping the

four other candidates in the At-Large Seat C race with 29.85%. She pulled more votes than the presumed favorite Amy Midis who came in second in a tight race and received 29.08% of the vote. The two women will face each other in November.

Also in the Seat C race former Commissioner Bob Thomas ran a very close third with 26.35%. Hubert Smith and David Williams both pulled less than 9% each in voter ballots.

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Reorganization, Ancient Village at commission meeting

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The annual reorganization of the Knox County Commission came into question at last week's work session as three members said they may not be at the planned September 3 meeting. Commissioner Michele Carringer, who said recently her family has a planned trip and she would be out that date, urged her fellow members to choose another date.

The reorganization is important because the commission will choose a new chairperson and make committee assignments. Commissioner Evelyn Gill may be out because of a family death and Commissioner Charles Busler may be in South Carolina with his family. Busler said he noted the date on his calendar and would drive back to Knoxville for the meeting if necessary.

"Circumstances happen," Carringer, who serves as vice chair, told the other members. She said the reorganization can happen

any time in September prior to their regular meeting that month and she asked them to set another date.

"Have some respect for our colleagues," she said. Commissioner John Schoonmaker noted that the September 3 date was set 13 months ago and called for the meeting to be held on the first business day that month.

A postponement and new date was requested but it would take eight votes to suspend the rules to do so.

"The rules are a little concrete, the charter says sometime before our meeting in September," Commissioner Randy Smith said.

"It is not about respect it is about precedent. We all have conflicts," said Commissioner Larsen Jay speaking against changing the date.

"It seems like a rush and that's a little disturbing," Carringer replied, adding that the reorganization meeting is "one of the most important things we do."

The vote was 6-4 to **Continue on page 3**

Council talks pay raise for city judge, sign ordinance, Design Center funds

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Barring a write-in candidate on the November ballot, it looks as if Judge John R. Rosson Jr. will continue to be the Municipal Judge for Knoxville. He will be the last judge to receive the current city salary of \$47,000, the next city judge will be getting \$74,000 each year.

The pay raise came up at the Knoxville City Council Tuesday. The resolution was sponsored by Councilmembers George Wallace, Mark Campen and Rinnar Saunders.

Wallace told the council he looked into the salaries of municipal judges around the area and settled on the increase. The judge does not receive the standard 2.5% increase that other city employees get each year because the judgeship is an elected position.

"He does quite a bit of work," Wallace said and added he believes the raise is fair since the salary hasn't been increased in seven years. Asked by Councilwoman Seema Singh if Judge Rosson had



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

requested the raise, Wallace said, "He mentioned it to me."

Councilwoman Lauren Rider said the salaries of city employees "are not stagnant" and said the judge's salary is an example of an elected position's salary that is stagnant.

The pay increase was authorized with a unanimous vote.

The council also voted to ask the planning commission to look into minor revisions to the city's sign ordinance. Two citizens, Joyce Feld and Carlene Malone,

spoke on the subject with Feld urging any changes limit large signs on off-located buildings. Malone said she favors a "limited review" of the ordinance and asked that commercial sign applications be run through the Board of Zoning Appeals for a public process.

The East Tennessee Design Center was given \$52,684 in Community Development Block Grant funds for conceptual design and technical assistance for community improvement projects. Design Center Director Duane Grieve told

the council the funds included \$26,000 of "in kind service" by volunteers. He said the Design Center will celebrate 50 years next year and described the various projects the center did over the years for the 16 counties it serves.

Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie reminded everyone of the upcoming African-American Breast Cancer Awareness Week, September 8-14. The week was recognized by the council to raise awareness and possibly reduce breast cancer-related mortality and disparity among African-American women in our state.

The council also approved two rezoning requests for 414 East Inskip Drive and 4330 Papermill Drive. Four properties with No Zone established were designated as A-1 (Lyndhurst Lane), R-1A (Northshore Drive), S-2 (Chimney Top Lane) and O-1 (Brook Avenue).

Approved by the council was \$1,200 funding for the Legacy Parks Foundation's Legacy Luncheon and \$1,750 for Ijam's Nature Center's Symphony in the Parks.

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