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November 11, 2019

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Caswell Park land decision postponed

Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The one issue that drew a large crowd to the City Council meeting Tuesday was tossed over to the new city council. Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie, who represents East Knoxville, moved to delay any vote on giving a small strip of of the meeting. land at Caswell Park to Volunteer Ministry Center for construction of apartments for the homeless.

Mc Kenzie cited the differences of opinion voiced by neighbors on the issue and said she was "not comfortable" in voting on it that evening. Several citizens had signed up to speak on the issue, four against it and five in support, and they did at the end

Even before the city can discuss donating this strip of land along East Fifth Avenue, the on rezoning, to change it from Park and Open Space to Planned Residential. The matter will need to pass two readings and Mayor Madeline Rogero is suggesting that the opponents might accept a different open space donation in the neighborhood as an alter-

"We are all about parks but we have a need for permanent nents to "ratchet it down and

property faces rounds of voting housing. There's an opportuni- discuss" the issue ty there for VMC," Mayor Madeline Rogero told the crowd. She said that if the city can add park space elsewhere in the neighborhood, it would be "a win-win" for both sides. She then said she is disappointed with sharp attacks on herself and her staff for promoting the proposal

The mayor called on the oppo-

"Step back from the hostilities and see whether or not there's a compromise," she said

Councilwoman Seema Singh, the only vote against postponing the vote, said she's been getting hostile e-mails and even visits to her house

IN OTHER BUSINESS The city council voted unanimously to opt

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Local winners of the A.F. Bridges awards are honored at a ceremony last week at Hardin Valley Academy. Winners included Dr. Mike Winstead, Rob Speas, Bobby Clark, Sarah Bailey, Matt Buckner, Justin Pratt and Steve Williams.

Williams receives A.F. Bridges Award

By Ken Lay

The awards just keep coming for Knoxville Focus sportswriter Steve Williams.

Williams, who has been with the paper since 2008, recently received an A.F. Bridges Award from the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic

The veteran sportswriter and sports official received the award in a ceremony conducted by the TSSAA Board of Control at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 4 at Hardin Valley Acad-

Williams, who was named CAREacter Star Sportswriter of the Year in 2018, received the A.F. Bridges Award for his contributions to high school sports during his career that has spanned more than half a cen-

He was one of seven A.F. Bridges Award recipients from Region 2 at last week's ceremony. The others included Farragut High School baseball coach Matt Bucker, Alcoa High softball coach Sarah Bailey, Hardin Valley Academy principal Rob Speas, Dr. Mike Winstead of Marvville City Schools, Knox County sports official Justin Pratt and Bobby Clark, Harriman High School athletic director.

Williams said that he was honored

to receive the award

"After many years in the newspaper business, I'm not used to being on this side of the story," Williams said. 'But I'm very honored and appreciative of this award. I've enjoyed a professional relationship with three outstanding TSSAA Executive Directors --- Gill Gideon, Ronnie Carter and Bernard Childress --- and their great staffs over the years.

"And receiving this award, which is named after A.F. Bridges, the TSSAA's first full-time executive secretary makes this honor even more special. I would like to thank The

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Women carry the day in close **City Election**

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Tuesday's city election saw Indya Kincannon become Knoxville's second female mayor-elect and victory for women across the ballot. Most of the races for city council were tight but when the ballots were counted, Lynne Fugate, Janet Testerman, and Amelia Parker were triumphant.

The three new councilwomen will join current members Stephanie Welch, Seema Singh, Lauren Rider and Gwen McKenzie. Knoxville will, for the first time, have a female majority on council serving with a woman mayor.

Charles Thomas defeated Charles Al-Bawi in the District Five race to replace Councilman Mark Campen with 62% of the vote. He will join Councilman Andrew Roberto as the only two men on the new council.

Kincannon, a former school board member of 10 years, captured 13,291 votes, or 52% of the vote, over businessman and Honor Air founder Eddie Mannis. Some 25,360 people voted with Kincannon carrying the day. Mannis had led in absentee and early voting but Kincannon prevailed on Election Day, topping Mannis with about 1,500 votes

Close races for council included Fugate defeating Charles F. Lomax, Jr., by only 80 votes, or 50.17% of the vote. Amelia Parker bested Amy Midis by 410 votes or 50.8% Tuesday. Midis pulled more absentee and early votes but, again, the Election Day turnout found Parker the winner

Parker was the only City Council Movement candidate to be victorious. The East Knoxville organization of activists fielded David Hayes, who lost to Testerman 55%-44%, and Al-Bawi who lost to Thomas 62%-37% last week.

All of the results will need to be certified by the election commission, but, as of the unofficial count, Knoxville is about to enter a new and different city

The new officeholders will be sworn in December 21

Knox Co. Schools to get hybrid teacher evaluation model next year

Any schoolteacher will tell you that being evalu- schools are free to choose same model. ated by the principal or which they prefer. other school administraing. A teacher's evaluation can affect his or her reputation, status, and even Rysewyk, chief academic employment.

Knox County currently has two teacher evaluation models - TEAM (Ten- Rysewyk told the board last 10 years. There are nessee Educator Acceleration Model) and TIGER 88 schools use TIGER

and Results) - and currently

Tony Norman asked Jon officer of Knox Co. Schools. to give an update on the "TEAM-TIGER situation." that eight of the county's

Growth for Effectiveness TEAM. Next year, however, they'll all have to use the

On Nov. 6 at a work ses- all teachers be evaluated," tors can be a bit unnerv- sion of the Knox Co. School said Rysewyk. "There are a by the state. So TEAM, there's a rubric they're evaluated off of, there's a process. Knox Co. has used that one for probably the other models, TIGER is one of those models. It uses

in the process."

two. "On a TEAM evaluascores in each of these categories (standards and ture and pacing, activities and materials, many others). When you do the TIGER rubric you're not. They're weighted and you

(Teacher Instructional while the other 80 use the same rubric but there don't get a score til the end the schools have really are some different things of the year. TEAM averages those scores through-Rysewyk explained the out the year. Sometimes "The state requires that difference between the there's some pushback. Getting those scores all the tion, that one class you get time, it's harder on teachthe end of the year."

"Schools that are that freedom to not have their scores til the end and really work on their craft," Rysewyk went on. "On the flip side some of

liked the TEAM model and gotten used to it."

Superintendent of Schools Bob Thomas is a fan of TIGER

"What I like about the Board, board member couple of accepted models evaluated on, you're given ers. They'd rather wait til TIGER model is that it's not scored til the end," he said. "It's a growth model. It's objectives, lesson struc- TIGER schools have liked not a one-time, one-shot score. For the teacher it's something that builds over the year. It may be a little

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