

Commissioner Justin Biggs, would include taking bids on a study of the suitability of the empty mall to house much of Knox County Government.

Prior to the regular meeting of Knox County Commission, Mayor Jacobs announced he would be asking for postponement moving the school offices to the TVA Tower and to postpone the sale of the Andrew Johnson Building. He promises a vote of the commission in January but it is becoming obvious that the commission may not approve those deals.

Opponents of the mall idea have cited the City of Knoxville not being interested in joining the county there. Deputy Knoxville Mayor Bill Lyons clarified that statement during public forum by saying the city "has not invested" in pursuing a study.

A quick survey of commissioners by The Focus indicates a majority of the



By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission voted, after much debate in the late hours of a long meeting last week, to effectively kill allowing microbreweries in Neighborhood Commercial zones.

Allowing breweries on a "use on review" in those zones split the commission in a 7 to 3 vote with Commissioner Richie Beeler passing on the vote.

Commissioners John Schoonmaker and Michele Carringer spoke against the 2nd reading of the proposed ordinance. Schoonmaker said having breweries in CN zones would hurt neighborhoods. Carringer said passing the ordinance would "open ourselves to loopholes."

Planning Director Gerald Green told the commission that while bars are not allowed, restaurants serving beer are permitted. He also said that an establishment might qualify for a state liquor license and sell microbrewed beer legally in the zones.

Green also said that a restaurant in those zones can legally have a microbrewery inside and not violate the county laws.

Commissioner Larsen Jay said, "It's time to evolve as a county and embrace