

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Loud applause and shouts of joy erupted Tuesday evening from the Old Sevier Neighborhood citizens attending the Knoxville City Council meeting. The impromptu celebration took place after the city council members approved an appeal of the variances granted to a proposed large development there.

Jennifer Arthur filed the appeal of the Board of Zoning Appeals decision to grant four variances for a huge apartment and retail complex proposed for 931 Langford Avenue. The site would face Suttree Landing Park and the Tennessee River and, in effect, block the view of many houses and businesses along Old Sevier Avenue. Attorney Wayne Kline represented the residents along the route.

Kline mentioned that 640 residents signed a petition against the development and said that the proposal violates the "SW2" zoning there. He said there's no hardship other than the design of the complex the developers want to put there.

Peter Hall of Dominion Development said the proposal meets the code for the area except for the variances, which



PHOTO BY BILL HOWARD

State Representative Jason Zachary takes a question from a concerned citizen at last Thursday's Citizen Forum at the Farragut Town Hall.

Farragut and the 5G cell giants

The latest in the saga

By Bill Howard

The drama swirling around Farragut's decision to allow the infrastructure necessary for 5G cellular service was once again on display, this time Thursday night, Mar. 12 at the Town Hall. Represent-

The image of those towers defiling the landscape brought about an uproar of opposition.

Zachary then reminded the crowd that the wireless companies, because of both a 2018 state law and an FCC ruling could

you cannot prohibit the wireless companies at all. It really put us in a tough position in terms of communities for how we were able to respond to this. So all we can do is try to put 'em in a box and just try to bump the brakes as much as we can."