



Observer Reporting Form

Table with 4 columns: Feature Evaluated, Yes, No, Comments. Rows include: Meeting started on time?, All members present?, Members attentive?, Did members appear to have done their "homework?", Were members courteous to each other and the public?, Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?, Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?, Adequate opportunity for public input?, Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?, Was background information available to the public?, Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)

Items of interest: The Ordinance to Require three fee offices to transfer fees collected to the General Fund and to have expenses and salaries paid from that General fund stirred up the most controversy. There are lawyers on both sides trying to sort out the conflicts between the State Constitution and the Knox County Charter.

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or program? We already have a position on the Ridge and Hillside Protection Plan – which was not discussed before this reporter had to leave shortly after 6 pm.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? No

Other Concerns: The issue of Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) seems to be poorly understood and there were suggestions of "class warfare" regarding the use of TIF in West Knox County vs the "blighted" inner city. This observer asked the developer to clarify her understanding. In this case, infrastructure improvements, (roads, water, sewer) that will be the County's responsibility at some point to accommodate current and future growth, would be paid for by the developer. Whatever future increases in property taxes, presumably resulting from the improvements and subsequent development, would be allocated 50/50 to the developer's debt (the TIF) and to Knox County revenue until the debt was paid (max 20 years). In addition, the local share of sales taxes from commercial development, serving a REGIONAL market, would benefit Knox County.

Observer: Judy Barnette Meeting: Knox County Commission Work Session Date: 18 Apr 2011