

LWVKKC Observer Corps Reporting Form

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Observer Name *

Alicia Atteberry

Meeting observed *

- Knoxville City Council
- Knox County Commission
- Knox County Board of Education
- Knox County Election Commission
- Knox County Library Advisory Board

Meeting date *

MM DD YYYY

03 / 31 / 2026

Three Main Observations *

- 1) CM Amelia Parker announced two community input sessions for a proposed development at the site of the current Kerbela Temple, a Shriners facility in South Knox. The development would provide housing for the 55+ community. Meetings took place on April 1 and April 2nd.
- 2) There was substantial public comment and discussion regarding agenda item 10g, approving the request of Heyoh Architecture for an amendment to the East City Sector Plan from Traditional Neighborhood Residential to Medium Density Residential/Office for a housing development at 0 Bill Morris/2802 Broadway in Edgewood Park/Belle Morris. The site has already been approved to combine three lots, and developers have planned two 3-unit townhomes and one larger apartment building, whose size will be determined by the approval or denial of this amendment. Three community members spoke in favor of the development, including members of Yes! Knoxville, and three against, including former District 4 councilmember Lynn Ryder. Those speaking in favor generally focused on the need for more housing, especially entry-level homes. Arguments against were largely from direct neighbors of the development who feel their privacy would be intruded upon and/or the development is too big a jump in scale for the surrounding area. The ordinance was passed 8-0; councilmember Honeycutt was absent.
- 3) The biggest discussion of the night focused on agenda item 12r, a resolution to move forward with Phase One, formation of a task force for the Alternative Response Business and Service Delivery Plan, a proposed local 911-dispatched alternative or community response program deploying trained, unarmed teams. Phase One would move forward asking the Task Force to develop an official recommendation.
 - CM Parker introduced the resolution with some background, focusing on study of and communications with the city of Cookeville's successful program. She noted that out of 80+ of these programs nationwide, there have been no injuries.
 - During discussion, it became clear Mayor Kincannon, as well as Police Chief Noel, had reservations about the program, which the Mayor believes would be redundant in light of the existing, successful programs such as KPD co-response and Downtown Ambassadors. Police Chief Noel said that he had brought up several concerns that had not been addressed in the proposal, but could not provide any specifics.
 - Four community members, mostly from local organizations such as Knoxville Heart (which was well represented in attendees), discussing positive personal experiences with similar programs. CM Parker also highlighted the significant savings in funding and police time the program could provide.
 - Although CM Parker motioned to postpone the vote in light of significant misunderstandings and community interest, a vote was forced and stalled at 4-4, which according to Council rules means the resolutions did not pass.

Did the meeting start on time? (use "Other" to write comments or concerns) *

Yes

No

Other:

Were all members present? (If NO, include missing members in "other") *

Yes

No

Other: Councilmember Nathan Honeycutt

Were all members attentive? (include notes or comments in "Other") *

Yes

No

Other:

Were members prepared? *

Yes

No

Other:

Was the agenda posted online 72 hours ahead of the meeting? *

Yes

No

Other:

Was the agenda clear in conveying what was to be discussed? *

Yes

No

Other:

As always, some understanding of city procedure, operations, and ongoing current events is necessary to understand City Council discussion. However, the agenda does provide reasonable amount of information allowing for further research or engagement.

Was there adequate opportunity for public input? *

Yes

No

Other:

Did it seem like some action items were discussed in a closed, rather than open session? *

Please note the importance of this question, as Sunshine Laws require board or commission members to only discuss business in open sessions.

Yes

No

Other:

Was background information available to the public? *

Yes

No

Other: PDFs with detailed background on each agenda item were provided in the HTML agenda.

Were the facilities/meeting room adequate? (enough seating, ADA access, etc) *

Yes

No

Other:

Policy PositionsUntitled Title

View the League's [National](#), [State](#), and [LWVKKC](#) policy positions.

LWVKKC Policy Positions: Childcare, Land Use, Health, Homeless/Mentally Ill Persons, Urban Forestry, Use of School Facilities by Communities, Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Were there any issues on the agenda or brought up in public forum that are relevant to LWV positions or programs? *

There were multiple agenda items addressing zoning and land use - i.e. the Heyoh Architecture project in North Knoxville, the 55+ development in early stages for the Kerbela Temple. Discussion among councilmembers and public comment questioned if these developments were providing enough housing, too much, or were most appropriate for their location (i.e. is a 55+ development so close to downtown needed, is it addressing the community's true needs).

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?

Other concerns or notes

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