

Council names 2010 appointees

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The start of a new year brought a changing of the guard to the Washington County Council.

Councilman Mark Manship's one-year run as president of the board ended when he nominated Jim Day for the position in 2010.

"I would like to see a rotating presidency and as much as possible I would like to see the presidency rotating from one party to the other," Manship said, following his statement with a motion nominating Day for president.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the council.

John D. Fultz was selected to be vice president.

The council also made several other appointments at the first meeting of the year.

One of the more divided decisions for those appointments was the PETA/BOA (Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals) board.

Three people, Kathy Zelivetz, Lane Frieberger and Joshua Anderson were nominated for the one position.

Zelivetz received one vote, Frieberger got two and Anderson garnered three and therefore was appointed to the board.

Anderson, who is the former Washington Township Assessor, joins commissioner appointees Jerry Roberts and Malcolm Starr.

The council also replaced a member of the Delaney Park Board.

Manship said David Walker requested that he not be re-appointed. The council granted that request and unanimously voted to appoint Lester Sowder to that seat.

Councilman Merwynn Fisher was appointed to the Solid Waste Management Board and Day was named the council's appointee to the Washington County Planning Commission.

Day reluctantly accepted the position citing time restraints in his own schedule, but Manship stressed the importance of having someone with a background in agriculture on the position.

The council also voted unanimously to retain Mark Clark as their attorney.

In other businesses, the council voted unanimously to fund a part time position in the Washington County Circuit Court to help with disposing of outdated cases and the filing of new ones.

Judge Robert Bennett said they are running out of space to file and having a person on staff would free up a lot of room.

"We have a problem upstairs with records from back in the 1800s," Bennett said. ". . . The new retention schedule that came out four or five years ago will allow us to get rid of dismissed cases. There are a tremendous amount of those records we can dispose of, but it necessitates someone physically going through them. That would free up a tremendous amount of space."

The council voted unanimously to fund the position at \$10,991 out of the rainy day fund.

"I think the value of the added space would be worth the money," said Manship.

Day agreed, "I've been up there a few times to see what kind of mess it's in."

In other business, the council voted to send signed letters to General Motors in an attempt to help John Jones GM City retain its Cadillac dealership.

If the Cadillac dealership is pulled from the Salem location, it would likely lead to a loss in jobs of those who work specifically on Cadillacs and would also force local residents who drive Cadillacs to drive further to have their automobiles serviced.

If General Motors moves forward with the current plan the change will take place Oct. 31.

The council's next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 1 at the Washington County Government Building.