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Miller elected mayor pro tem

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Oak Ridge City Councilwoman Jane Miller is the city's new mayor pro tem.

She was elected to a two-year term in a 4-3 vote at Monday night's Oak Ridge City Council meeting.

The mayor pro tem fills in for the mayor when that official is temporarily absent.

Also Monday, council members appointed seven members of a city charter review committee and unanimously agreed to share with Anderson County the cost of keeping the county's General Sessions Court Division II in Oak Ridge.

Council members tried unsuccessfully last month to elect a mayor pro tem, but a series of five separate votes all ended in 3-3 ties split between the two candidates, council members Jane Miller and David Mosby.

Newly elected Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan cast the tiebreaking vote on Monday, casting a ballot for Miller, who replaces Beehan as mayor pro tem. Beehan, who will serve two years as mayor, was absent from last month's meeting.

Besides Beehan, council members Tom Hayes and Charlie Hensley voted for Miller, and Miller voted for herself.

Meanwhile, council members Willie Golden and Ellen Smith voted for Mosby, and Mosby voted for himself.

Council elects the mayor and mayor pro tem from its own ranks following a regular city election. This year's municipal election was June 5.

The charter review committee appointed Monday will ensure the document is consistent with state law. The revised Oak Ridge city charter approved by voters in 2004 calls for the committee review every eight years, beginning this July.

The seven newly appointed members of the committee are:

- Thomas P. Burns,
- R. Boyd Carter,
- Ella H. DuBose,
- D. Tom Normand,
- Mary Helen Rose,
- Phil Wallace, and
- Aaron Wells.

Thirteen people had submitted applications to serve.

Besides ensuring the charter is consistent with state law, the review committee can also recommend other changes that it

believes are in the community's best interest.

The charter review committee will submit proposed amendments to Council within 10 months of the committee appointments. City Council members will then consider the recommendations and submit to a voter referendum those amendments the Council deems appropriate.

Council agreed to help keep the General Session Court by paying half the cost — up to \$2,500 a month — of leasing the former Oak Ridge Utility District building on Oak Ridge Turnpike. Anderson County would pay the other half of the \$5,000-a-month lease.

After 14 years, officials say the current court space, located in the Oak Ridge Municipal Building, is overcrowded and has inadequate security. The court could have been moved to Clinton.

The resolution approved by council says the lease expires when current General Sessions Court Division II Judge Ron Murch's term expires in 2014, unless terminated sooner by the Anderson County Commission and the Oak Ridge City Council.

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