

From *Post* staff reports

Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead won re-election yesterday to a second four-year term of office defeating challenger Bob O'Brien by more than 6,000 votes.

Craighead collected 6,011 votes, or 65.10 percent; O'Brien had 2,945 votes, or 31.90 percent; and running a distant third in the race was David Kievernagel with 258 votes, or 2.79 percent.

Although in the role he has held for the four previous years, the mayor will be working with a

new city

council.

Three new council members were elected Tuesday including Lanny Jewell, Ward 1; Fred A. Burton Sr. in Ward 2; and Robert "Tick" Bryan in Ward 5.

Jewell, son of former Lebanon Mayor Bobby Jewell, ran virtually unopposed in his first political race as his challenger withdrew from the election having to face criminal charges in Georgia. Jewell received 868 votes, or 73.43 percent.

Two former city councilors faced off against each other in the Ward 2 race. Burton, a Lebanon radio personality and former City purchasing agent, won with 458 votes, or 53.01 percent. Stafford, who holds a real estate license, is also a member of the Wilson County Commission. She received 402 votes, or 46.53 percent.

Craighead wins, has new council

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

The Ward 5 City Council race was won by political newcomer Bryan. Bryan managed 848 votes, or 53.98 percent, while his two opponents Jim Mills collected 396 votes, or 25.21 percent; and Billy Weeks received 325 votes, or 20.69 percent.

“I’m really pleased,” Bryan said. “We had a lot of good comments all through the race. I had confidence that the voters wanted to do something different.”

Mills, a member of the Middle Tennessee Electric board of directors, had previously served as a member of the city council.

Weeks, who is rumored to be a possible candidate for Wilson County Sheriff in a couple of years, served as police chief in Lebanon and later as the city’s public safety commissioner.

Craighead based his campaign on what he termed as “progress” in the city. He told about his plans to increase retail development locally and strengthen the city’s tax base.

He also endorsed and openly offered his support for a one-half cent increase in the local sales tax which was defeated.