

Minutes from the Commission Meeting held on

April 14, 2008

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners met for a Public Hearing on April 14, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Community Center followed in regular session at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Raymond Roach called the meeting to order with commissioners Tony Hawn, Clifford Garrett and Amos Brock present.

Commissioner Todd Brown was not present.

Mayor Roach read a letter that had been presented to the Town from Mike Tallent – from MTAS who is the Town’s legal consultant-regarding the financial and overall improvements which have occurred for the Town since 2003. (A copy of the letter will be attached to the minutes.)

Motion was made by Hawn, seconded by Brock to accept the March 2008 minutes. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Motion was made by Hawn, seconded by Brock to pass on Final Reading Ordinance # 04-14-08-01. An ordinance to adopt the updated municipal codes. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Motion was made by Brock, seconded by Hawn to pass on Final Reading Ordinance # 04-14-08-02. An ordinance to rezone certain property on Highway 411 from R-1 to C-2. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Motion was made by Hawn, seconded by Brock to keep the employee health insurance with United Health Care. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Motion was made by Hawn, seconded by Brock to Table the business of the First Baptist Church ’s request for No Parking Signs. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Motion was made by Hawn, seconded by Garrett to Table the business of the weather alert system. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Motion was made by Hawn, seconded by Garrett to allow the athletic teams of Englewood to have a free day at the swimming pool. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye. **Motion** was then made by Hawn, seconded by Garrett to **Table** the business of the pool fees until the Town Manager could see how much was going to be spent on

pool repairs. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye. The Board agreed to set the opening date of the pool for June 1, 2008.

Town Manager Cass stated that clean-up week will be April 21st -25th. **Motion** was then made by Hawn, seconded by Brock to appoint Tommy Robinson to the Keep McMinn Beautiful Committee. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Fire Chief Billy Roach read the March 2008 fire department report.

Interim Police Chief Darrell Wright read the March 2008 police department report.

Motion was made by Hawn, seconded by Brock to adjourn the meeting. Hawn Aye, Garrett Aye, Brock Aye, Roach Aye.

Raymond Roach
Mayor

Sondra Denton
Recorder

The following letter was prepared by MTAS with the help of Town documents regarding the 2003 and 2007 audit reports.

FOUR YEARS OF PROGRESS

During the past four years the Town of Englewood has made significant progress and no area is more dramatic than in the financial area. In 2003 the Town's expense exceeded its revenues by \$167,429. That means the Town had to use "savings" or fund balance to meet its expenditures and balance its budget for the year. By comparison, in 2007, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$94,058. This is a 156% turnaround and was accomplished without raising property taxes. This improvement was achieved through a combination of a 23% increase in revenue and a 14.5 decrease in expenditures. Revenues increased through a growth in property values, a growth in business activity and a strong effort in revenue collection. The decrease in expenditures was not by neglecting the Town's needs, because during that four year period the Town has added two new police cars, a fire rescue truck, made renovations at the wastewater plant, improved the inflow and infiltration of the sewer lines- in which the Town is currently in the process of applying for a grant to improve the I and I in the Conner Addition, built a road to the water tank on Highway 411 which was previously to have been built in the 80's. There has been a retirement plan and a new personnel policy established. The General Ledger and Accounts Receivable has been in balance for the last two years in which had never been accomplished before. In addition, during this four year period efforts were undertaken that resulted in the Town's fire insurance rating being reduced from a 7 to a 4. Overall, this should result in a 30-45% reduction in fire insurance premiums for home owners in Englewood according to the town's fire chief's reduction. The Town has recently established a web page and will within the next few months begin accepting credit/debit and electronic check payments. There is no way to break down all that has been accomplished in one letter, but this will give highlights of the past four years.

These dramatic improvements did not occur by chance. In late 2004, efforts began to centralize and modernize the Town's management practices. Up to that point and for a while thereafter, Englewood functioned with a commission form of government. This placed elected commissioners directly in charge of the management of departments regardless of their qualifications or ability to manage such departments. This resulted in dramatic fluctuation in departmental management, a very disjointed approach to the Town's business overall and limited the Town's ability to efficiently respond to problems, develop a comprehensive plan for the future. This movement away from the commission form of government culminated in a change in the Town's charter and a change in its form of government. In the spring of 2005, the Englewood governing body adopted an amendment to its charter and installed a council/manager form of government. This form of government elects a council to set policies that range from easily recognized items such as tax rates, to policies on utility cut-ons/cut-offs, to solid waste collection schedules to more complicated policies such as personnel policies that govern the hiring practices, leave policies and compensation plans. For the other half of this council/manager form of government, the Council hired a city manager to implement the policies it adopts and manage the Town's day to day affairs. In which results in the policies being uniformly implemented and managed thereby professionalized the Town's operations and its workforce.

The results of these changes are reflected in the many gains noted above and has positioned the Town to be able to meet and manage the future without simply being subjected to and " reacting " to the changes that confront every municipality.