The Englewood Board of Commissions met in regular session on April 9, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Municipal Building.

**Call to Order**

Mayor James Cox called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Roll Call was given by Finance Officer/Recorder Sondra Denton with Mayor James Cox, Commissioners Jason Hitt and Buford Hackler present. Commissioner Jimmy Jack arrived following invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02 PM.

**Invocation-Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Jason Hitt gave invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Communications from the Mayor**

There were no communications from the Mayor.

**Commissioner Reports**

There were no communications from the Commissioners.

**Approval of the March 2018 Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Hackler, **seconded** by Hitt to approve the March 2018 minutes. All Ayes

**Financial Report**

Denton read the March 2018 Financial report. *A copy of the report will be attached to the minutes in the Minute Book.*

**Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Brittany Freeman presented the March 2018 Managers report. *A copy of the report will be attached to the minutes in the Minute Book.*

**Police Department Report**

Police Chief James Paris presented the March 2018 Police Department report. *A copy of the report will be attached to the minutes in the Minute Book.*

**Library Report**

Virginia Key addressed the Board with the March 2018 Library report. *A copy of the report will be attached to the minutes in the Minute Book.*

**Swimming Pool**

* Hours of Operation:
  + Discussion was made concerning the operating days and hours of the swimming pool for the 2018 pool season. After discussion from the board and citizens present it was decided to open the pool Monday –Saturday from 11:30 AM until 5:30 PM and Sundays from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM. The time to remain open until 5:00 PM on Sundays may change to 6:00 PM depending on the census of the attendance. This will be revisited after the pool has been open a few weeks.
* Pool Signs on Highway 411:
* Discussion was made concerning the need for signs to be installed on Highway 411. The board instructed Freeman to see if funds were in the budget to install signs North and South on Highway 411. If the funds are available the signs may be purchased.
* Consideration of paying part of the lifeguard’s certification for employment:
* Discussion was made concerning the need to help the lifeguard’s pay for their certification along with possibly paying a portion of their uniforms. Hitt instructed Freeman to see if the funds were available in the budget. If funds are available, the board will assist in paying half of the certification fee and half of their uniforms.

**Drug Task Force Director Bill Cherry**

DTF Director Bill Cherry addressed the board concerning the annual contract renewal between the Drug Task Force and the Town of Englewood. Cherry stated Officer Cameron Cordell has achieved several training certificates and was currently in training. He also read a report, which will be attached to the minutes, regarding Cordell’s drug arrest activities. Cherry stated the town should soon see the revenue begin to flow through regarding the town’s portion of the DTF’s drug activity revenues. Freeman then addressed the board concerning the lack of funds in the Drug Fund to continue to fund Cordell’s position. She stated Cordell’s salary had been moved to the General Fund and was being charged to the Police Department’s budget. However, funds were not budgeted in the General Fund for Cordell. The Board then suggested splitting his salary between the General and Drug Fund until the cash in the Drug Fund increases. Cherry further stated that a reimbursement could be submitted for Cordell’s overtime which could assist the town in paying for his salary. He was not sure if the reimbursement grant timeframe has already been surpassed, but the town could seek reimbursement from this point forward. **Motion** was then made by Hitt, **seconded** by Jack to renew the contract with the DTF for three (3) months, at which will give them time to see if the Drug Fund revenue increases enough to continue with the contract. All Ayes.

**Voting on whether of not to excuse excessive absences by board member**

Discussion was made concerning the Town Charter which states in Section 6. Vacancies; filling of vacancies.

(b) Forfeiture of Office. The Mayor of Commissioner shall forfeit that office if the Mayor or Commissioner:

(4) Fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners without being excused by the Board of Commissioners.

The board turned this business over to the newly appointed city attorney Melissa Parsons. Parsons then instructed the board concerning the state rulings regarding a charter with this type of stipulation. She said state statutes supersedes the town’s charter. She also stated if a commissioner willingly resigns their seat or commits a crime, then that seat would be considered available for reappointment by the board, if it is not within (180) days of the next election. Discussion then died regarding this business.

**Six month evaluation and approval of a 5% increase for the Town Manager**

Discussion was made concerning the agreement which was made between the commissioners and Freeman when she was hired as the Town Manger. Hitt stated he felt Freeman was doing a good job considering her lack of experience in the governmental field. He further stated he would like to see more communication between Freeman and the commissioners before she hires employees in the hiring paying salary positions. He commended Freeman for walking into a lot of unnecessary things, yet keeping a positive attitude. **Motion** was then made by Jack, **seconded** by Hitt to increase Freemans’ salary by 2%, which was previously promised. Hackler abstained from voting on this business and Cox **voted no**. Therefore, the ***motion failed to pass***. A citizen in the audience asked why Cox would not approve the salary increase and he stated he had asked Freeman to assist him on several items and he didn’t receive any response.

**Any of Business to Legally Come Before the Board**

A citizen in attendance had previously asked the Board why Shawn Martin was not present at the meeting, since he was a commissioner, who was normally at the board meetings. The board then turned this question to the attorney. Parsons stated that she was contacted regarding Martin’s appointment to the Board being an illegal appointment due to the fact there were only two (2) commissioners who voted to appoint him. Parsons said she had researched this and Martin’s appointment was not a legal appointment. She read the minutes of the board meeting in question where Martin had been appointed. The minutes clearly stated there were only two commissioners who voted to appoint Martin. She further stated she had contacted the Municipal Technical Advisory Service who assisted with information regarding this type of situation. Parsons said the board could choose to allow Martin to remain on the board, however he would not be permitted to vote on anything. She further stated there may be a clause at which a judge could rule that Martin may remain on the board since he had been in that capacity for more than a year. Further discussion was made concerning the legal ramifications should the board choose to or not keep Martin as a commissioner, at which time **motion** was made by Mayor Cox, to allow Martin to remain on the board, however the ***motion died*** for lack of second.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Cox, **seconded** by Hitt to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes.

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Mayor Recorder