

The Englewood Board of Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6:00 PM. The meeting was located in the community center room inside the Municipal Building.

Call To Order

Mayor James Cox called the meeting to order

Roll Call by City Recorder

City Recorder Alison Bull gave roll call with Commissioners Buford Hackler, Jason Hitt, Shawn Martin and Mayor James Cox present. Commissioner Richard Raper was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Commissioner Hitt gave invocation.

Communication from the Mayor

Mayor Cox said that he was elected as the mayor for the Town of Englewood and that he is here to serve everyone and do the right thing for the community. He said that if anyone has any questions to come to him or one of the commissioners for help.

Commissioner Reports

No commissioner reports at this time.

Approval of August Minutes

Commissioner Hitt made a motion to approve August's minutes. Commissioner Hackler seconded. All Ayes.

Agenda:

Old Business

Item A. Pool Grant – Michael Frixen

Commissioner Hackler said that he is not a fan of public pools himself, but at the same time, he believes the kids need to be at the swimming pool instead of being mischievous. Therefore, he does want to vote to keep the pool. Commissioner Hitt said that he has spoken with many citizens and he believes that it will be a detriment to the kids to shut it down. He said that he votes to use the grant money. Commissioner Martin said he votes to keep the pool, he believes that it's instrumental to the community. City Recorder Alison Bull pointed out that Michael Frixen was there to discuss this further. Michael Frixen introduced himself, saying that he works at the Southeast Tennessee Development District. His agency is the one who is administering the pool grant on behalf of the Town of Englewood. He gave three resolutions to the board to get a passing of one or two (that went hand in hand) resolutions. The original grant was for \$50,000 from the State. They have learned of the difficulties and having trouble paying the overages. There have been some additional funds made available for the town if they agree to match it. One of the resolutions would be to increase the match on the Town's behalf by \$25,000 additional for the town. The State does not do this often, therefore it is a very nice gesture on

their part. One resolution would be to decline bid, returning all grant money to the state and the other 2 resolutions include accepting the additional \$25,000 and giving the bid to Burleson Pool Company to complete by January 31. City Recorder Bull said that the resolution options were backward in order as what Frixen presented. Option 1 would be to decline and options 2-3 would be to accept grant and give the bid to Burleson. Commissioner Hitt made a motion to accept resolution 124, to receive the additional funds from the State LPRF grant, Commissioner Martin seconded. All Ayes. City Recorder Bull said that resolution 125 would also need a motion if they were wanting to pass it. Commissioner Hackler made a motion to pass resolution 125 to give the bid to Burleson Pool Company. Martin seconded. All Ayes.

New Business

Item A. August Financial Report

City Recorder Bull presented the August Financial Report. Commissioner Hitt made a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner Hackler seconded. All Ayes.

Russ Blair pointed out that somebody needs to make a motion, another person seconds it, and then the mayor calls the vote.

Item B. Police Report

No police report at this time.

Item C. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Billy Roach presented the fire department report.

Item D. Library Report

Virginia Key presented the library report.

Item E. Appointment of Vice Mayor

Mayor Cox said that he would like to appoint Buford Hackler as vice mayor. Cox made a motion. Hitt seconded. All Ayes.

Item F. Appointment of Planning Commission

Commissioner Hackler said he wasn't really sure how that works, and asked if there was a board already in place. Town Manager Cline said that there has to be two sitting commissioners appointed to the planning commission. Cline said that normally the mayor and one other commissioner serves. Previous mayor, Tony Hawn, spoke up and said that one of them has to be the mayor. Commissioner Hackler asked Commissioner Martin if he wanted the position, and Martin said "Not necessarily." Commissioner Hackler asked Martin if he accepted, and said that he believes Martin would be good at it. Commissioner Martin said that he would accept. Cox made a motion. Hitt seconded. All Ayes.

**Citizens were making comments about not being able to hear. City Recorder Bull said that they tried to turn the volume up, but the microphones were giving feedback, so they had it on the maximum volume without feedback. She then instructed the commissioners to speak into the microphones.

Item G. Lifestar-Sarah Gordon

Sarah Gordon with AirMed Care Network presented to the board a plan to provide their services to the municipality.

- They're locally known as Lifestar or AirEvac – air ambulance alliance.
- The company started in 1976, about 40 years.
- They provide life and limb threatening services to people who are in trauma situations such as heart attacks and strokes.
- Locally they have around 10 bases. Lifestar has 5 bases and Erlanger Life Forces has 5 bases.
- McMinn County is geographically in a good location for coverage.
- They're in 32 states, over 260 bases.
- It covers people as they travel, as well.
- In McMinn County last year, they had 559 flight requests, equated to 233 actual flights. This year they've had 181 flights YTD.
- McMinn County doesn't have a trauma center, therefore airlifting is a necessity for this area.
- Their goal is to get people suffering to a trauma center within an hour.
- The cost of being flown is in the tens of thousands of dollars range.
- Insurance plans do typically pay, but there is a gap between cost and what the insurance covers.
- Each helicopter costs 3-7 million dollars, requiring high costs for flights.
- Towns and cities were calling and saying their economies could not afford their citizens to be paying thousands of dollars out of pocket, and requested AirMed Care Network to create a plan for municipalities.
- If Englewood chose to accept this plan, they would fly out anyone who lives in Englewood city limits from McMinn County. They wouldn't have to be flown out of Englewood, but it would have to be McMinn County. Each household would have the option to upgrade for \$35/yr to cover flight costs from any location.
- Ms. Gordon opened the floor for questions. Hackler asked how the insurance worked. Gordon said they bill the insurance first and then cover the rest of the cost.
- Gordon gave an example that a teacher from Monroe County was flown from Sweetwater to Erlanger, and her bill was \$40,000. Her insurance paid \$9,000. The \$31,000 balance due could have been covered by Lifestar if she had a membership with them.
- If the person had no insurance to draw off of, then they are billed, but at the Medicare allowable rate, which is significantly lower than the normal cost. It pays the gap.
- If someone is a member and the insurance denies the claim altogether, the membership pays the entire amount. There would be no out of pocket expense.
- The cost for the Town of Englewood would be \$7,750/yr to cover all of the citizens in the Town of Englewood, and each citizen would have the option to upgrade.
- Hitt said that he and many people in the room didn't have enough to pay that cost of a flight out of pocket.
- Citizen Helen Land asked how much it would cost if she wanted to sign up for it now, since she lives out of the city limits. Gordon said it would be \$65/yr. Land asked Gordon if she brought brochures and she said yes.

- Hackler asked if this was something that she needed an answer on now. Gordon said that she did not need an answer at this time. Hackler said it seems like a good idea but knows that it would be something they would have to go over more. Gordon thanked the board for letting her come.

Item H. Resolution 122 to Renumber Resolutions 119-121

City Recorder Bull presented that this was an error on her part. She accidentally numbered two different resolutions the same number (119). This resolution is to renumber the resolutions that were erroneously numbered. Mayor Cox made a motion. Commissioner Hitt seconded. All Ayes.

Item I. Resolution 123 to Designate New Bank Signers

Mayor Cox said that Allison would be a signer, and himself. Commissioner Hitt asked City Recorder Bull how many are required to be signers. Bull said that two are legally required to sign a check. Hitt asked Bull if there needed to be some sort of contingency just in case something happened. Bull said that she personally believed so. She said if James was sick, payroll would have to go out and vendors would have to be paid. She said that her opinion is that there would need to be at least one more. Commissioner Hackler said that with his work schedule, he wouldn't be able to be here all the time, but he wasn't sure what Mr. Martin's schedule was like. Commissioner Martin said that his schedule is a little bit friendlier. Commissioner Hitt asked if Commissioner Martin would be willing to be a signer. Commissioner Martin said yes. Commissioner Hitt asked Mayor Cox to make a motion, and he said, "I make a motion." City Recorder Bull said that the mayor needed to say who he wanted in the motion. Commissioner Hitt explained further to Mayor Cox. Mayor Cox asked who all was going to be the signers. Commissioner Martin explained to Mayor Cox what had been discussed, which was Mayor Cox, City Recorder Alison Bull, and Commissioner Shawn Martin. Commissioner Hackler explained further to Mayor Cox that it was Mayor James Cox, Commissioner Shawn Martin, and City Recorder Bull. Mayor Cox stated, "Me, and Mr. Martin, and Mrs. Bull." Commissioner Hitt seconded. All Ayes.

This resolution would remove the previous signers Tony Hawn, Joe Cline, and Alan Phillips.

Item J. 1st Reading Ordinance 09-12-16-96 OSHA Addition

City Recorder Bull said that she was contacted by the state of TN, requesting that a sentence be added to the current Health and Safety Plan. Bull read the addition to the ordinance. Commissioner Hitt made a motion to accept it. Mayor Cox made a motion to second it. Russ Blair requested that the mayor read the caption of the ordinance they were approving. Citizen Helen Land asked if any of the board knew Roberts Rules of Order. Hitt said, "I do because this is not my first rodeo. I was in student government when I was in school." Land said that the board needs to know Roberts Rules of Order, because nothing has been done like it was supposed to do. Hitt told Cox that he had to read the caption because he was the mayor. Commissioner Hitt walked Mayor Cox through the ordinance reading. Mayor Cox made a motion, Commissioner Hitt seconded. All Ayes.

Item K. Address Commissioner Position – Raper

Commissioner Hackler said that to his understanding, he hadn't been to a meeting in months, so he votes to remove Richard Raper as commissioner. Russ Blair said that they were going to need to give

him a notice that they were treating this as a forfeiture of office. The best thing to do was to do a notice and cite the charter provision that there could be a removal for 3 unexcused absences and then it needed to be reset for the next meeting for the acceptance of a resignation or a forfeiture and you could make an appointment at that time. He thought it would be wise to give him a notice. He said they would still need to make a motion to determine that he has forfeited his office.

Mayor Cox said "I make a motion." The commissioners asked him "For what?" "To remove Raper from Commissioners Office." Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Item L. Any Other Business to Legally Come Before the Board

- Commissioner Hitt asked the board if they were wanting to address city manager. He said that the only other item the commissioners have is the city manager position. Commissioner Hackler asked the mayor to speak, and the mayor directed Hackler to speak. Commissioner Hackler said the he believes they need to discuss the position further. He said he doesn't believe that there has been a lot done that he can see in his own opinion. He believes that they need to look at other options for town manager. He said that it's nothing against Mr. Cline personally, he thinks that he's a great guy, but he thinks Englewood is due a change. Hitt asked if anyone had any concerns that they would like to bring forward at this time. Helen Land asked what his job consists of. Hitt asked Alison Bull if there was a job description on hand and told Land that there's not a job description at this time. A Citizen asked what was being said, that they couldn't hear since everyone is whispering. He said it's hard to tell what they're even watching this evening. Commissioner Hackler apologized and said that they sort of feel like they need to move on with the city manager. He said that he believes if you make a change it needs to be all of the way. He said it's something they need to discuss and discuss with Mr. Cline. Hackler said he has a lot of respect for him but it's time for a change. Hackler said that Hitt asked if they had any questions about Mr. Cline's position. Citizen asked for the job description, to which Hitt responded that there is no job description at this time. Town Manager Cline said that it is defined by the charter. The charter defines the duties of town manager. Helen Land said that the charter defines a lot of things. Commissioner Hackler said that probably a lot of what the city manager does is not written down. Land said that if a new one was going to enter, it's a lot to learn. She pointed out that Tony had to do it and mayor position at the same time when there was no town manager. Another citizen said that the charter does not put the mayor in the position, and that a town manager has to be appointed. Commissioner Hitt said that he believes that there's a lot of wisdom in taking time and not being too hasty. Citizen Jack Simpson asked if it was absolutely necessary to even have a town manager. The board responded "Yes." Commissioner Hitt said that under our form of government it is. For city hall to move the way it should, the city has to have a town manager. Citizen Alan Phillips said that the charter mandates a town manager. Commissioner Hackler said that it's not a job that's easily done, and it takes someone qualified to do it. He said that he's not cutting Mr. Cline any slack, said that he is well educated but he wants to discuss moving forward. Hackler said at this point he can't say that it will or will not be Mr. Cline. Hackler said that as a new board, they need to consider. Another citizen said that before they should make a decision on anything, they should fix the job description for the position to make sure that the new person would be able to fulfill that job, if they change managers. Hackler said that they have not made a

decision tonight about Mr. Cline, but he thinks it's something that needs to be discussed.

The citizen said that a job description needs to be in order. Hackler said that they don't want to take a man's livelihood without a discussion.

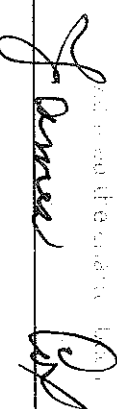
- Hackler said that he wanted to congratulate Mr. Jason Pickel. For those that don't know officer Pickel, they offered to turn around and say hello to the new chief of police. Helen Land asked what kind of education Pickel had. Hackler said that he is well educated, that he has a lot of experience as a police officer, and that his qualifications are very high. Helen Land said that she's proud of him and very sorry for his child. Hackler said that this has nothing to do with that. Land said she understands but wanted to say that. She wanted to know one thing, if any officer knows what to do/the protocol for a death scene. Pickel said as an officer when you respond to a death scene, the first and most important thing is to secure the scene and to secure the evidence. You don't handle the evidence and helps you to continue with your investigation. Land said that it was correct except there's a list to continue on. She said it was very important to her because her son was killed and nobody except Billy Roach said anything to her or anything and she was there. She said she does know the crime scene stuff and that she had to ask Gary a long time ago if he would make sure that the officers knew that. Pickel said that Gary did a good job and made sure that everybody knew how to do their job. Helen said that was good. Cline said to clarify, he appointed Jason last Thursday, and made sure that Pickel was okay to take the position of interim chief. Cline said that he's been at the Sheriff's department and in a supervisor's position for a while, and he thought he would be good in that position and saw if he was agreeable. Cline said that he thinks so far it's been good, and at the moment, his title is interim chief until Pickel so chooses to remove that title. Land said that she was proud of him, she just wanted to make sure that he knew that. Hackler said that he just had to give Cline hands up for that decision that he thought that was a good decision. Hackler said that Gary Miller recommended Pickel very highly. Hackler wanted to congratulate him. Commissioner Hitt said that officer Pickel has a great report with the citizens of Englewood, and that it goes a long way when you talk to somebody like they're somebody, that means something. Helen Land said that he is very well liked. Commissioner Hackler said that he even knows how to park the police cars.
- Hackler said that there's a K-9 police dog that Pickel is wanting to send to training and he was unsure if that was something the city was interested in. Alan Phillips said that he talked to Gary about the dog and basically what Gary told Phillips is they tried to retrain the dog but it kept failing the certification, so he should be put into surplus equipment. They could sell it outright to a breeder or sell it to be a breeder for half price and take the first pup and train it to be a drug dog. The value of the dog is about \$1,000. They tried to retrain it and it kept failing the certification. They would work for a while and fail the certification. It has run its course. Chief Pickel said that he's spoken with the trainer, and the trainer that has been training with the dog has a history, he's a good trainer, but he also has a history that's been proven that if it's not his dog, he doesn't put as much effort into it. We've spoken to another trainer that has guaranteed that he can train this dog back to where he was, and believes the dog still has some good years on him. Pickel said it's up to the board, but if they decide not to do it, there are other options. Commissioner Hackler asked how old the dog was. Chief Pickel said that it was 8-9 years old, but according to that guy he has 2-3 good years

and feels pretty confident that he can train that dog up. Phillips asked if he was the guy from Etowah and Pickel said that it wasn't. Commissioner Hitt asked Pickel if he would research that and get some more figures. Chief Pickel said that yes he would.

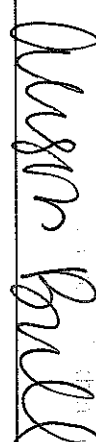
- Commissioner Hitt asked if anyone else had other business, and Cline said that tomorrow is Joe Hardwick's last day with the Town of Englewood. Cline said that he hired Hardwick a little over 14 years ago, and he wanted to thank Hardwick for his service to the town. Commissioners thanked Hardwick as well.
- Helen Land asked about the water plant, and who will do the water plant, and who has the certifications. Commissioner Hitt said that would be something for Cline to address. Cline said that he is the certified operator at the moment, but he is interested in seeing what the displeasure of his job performance is because outside of a few minor conversations, he has had no conversation about any dissatisfaction or poor performance. Cline said if he is dismissed, the town will need a certified operator for water collection and distribution. Hackler said if they take that route (of firing Joe Cline), they have somebody lined up to fulfill those certifications, since, Hackler said, it seems Mr. Cline doesn't want to stay on in any other position. Cline said Hackler is violating the charter because only the town manager can hire. Hackler said that he hasn't hired anyone. Cline said it would be up to the Town Manager to discuss them staying on in another position. Hackler said he hadn't violated the charter because he hadn't hired or fired anybody. Hackler said that he was just making suggestions and Cline was taking it to heart.
- Citizens began saying to make a motion. Mayor James Cox said he makes a motion on removing Mr. Cline from office. Commissioner Hackler seconded. Russ Blair told City Recorder Bull to do a roll call. Bull asked Hackler, and he said he agreed. She asked Cox and he said yes. Hitt said no, and Martin said no.
- The motion failed with a 2-2 vote.

Item M: Adjournment

Mayor Cox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Martin seconded. All Ayes.

Mayor 

James Cox

City Recorder 

Alison Bull