

# City of Englewood to administer its own income tax collection

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Photo by Marilyn McConahay

Accepting a proclamation for Grace Brethren Village from Englewood Mayor Pat Burnside, third from left, are, left to right: Elnora Schopp, Administrator Mike Montgomery, Burnside, Faith Shock, Linda Geaslen and Executive Director Gene A. Geaslen.



Photo by Marilyn McConahay

Englewood Mayor Pat Burnside presented a proclamation to Happy Corner Brethren Church. Flanking Burnside, third from left, are: accepting the proclamation are, left to right: Jane Woodie, Pastor Kelly Meyerhoeffer, Jan Weaver, Carol Blouch and Jim Oren.

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**For the Independent**

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The City of Englewood has decided to administer its municipal tax collection locally, thus ending a temporary December 2002 contract with the City of Vandalia to perform that service.

The temporary arrangement was in place while the city explored alternative methods of local income tax collection.

City Council approved legislation at its Aug. 9 meeting to terminate the contract with Vandalia and City Manager Eric Smith was empowered to begin the process of establishing a division of income tax under the city's department of finance.

Smith said the new method of handling the local income taxes should be up and running by Dec. 30.

"We have studied the feasibility of assuming control of administering and collecting our local income taxes and this is what we have decided to do," Smith said.

In addition to ending the agreement with Vandalia, the process involves increasing the number of city positions by adding an income tax administrator and a finance clerk; purchase of software from Creative Microsystems Inc. and contracting with the Cleveland Collection Agency to collect delinquent taxes.

Council approved separate legislation authorizing all of those related actions.

"Council also will need to appoint three citizen members to the Board of Tax Appeals," Smith said.

In other legislation, Council authorized taking action to remedy a blight situation at properties located at 509 and 305 Wolf Avenue and at 213 Tate Avenue, where owners have not complied with repeated notification by the city to clean up their properties.

Notices of Violation were sent to the property owners on July 28, giving them seven days to make necessary repairs, but none were made, Smith said.

The City will take action by trimming overgrown bushes and trees, repairing broken gutters and removing debris from the properties.

The property owners later will be assessed for these services on their tax bills, Smith said.

Mary Grilliot, who with her husband, Bill, owns and operates Company 7 BBQ, located at Main Street and Wenger Road in Englewood, appeared before Council to begin a dialogue with the city about changing its regulations regarding electronic message board promotional signs.

Grilliot would like to see a change in the regulation requiring 10 minutes between changes in promotional messages, citing other signs in the area that change every two seconds. She said it would allow her to use larger letters instead of having to cram several specials onto the board at once.

Smith said the 10-minute pause regulation was designed to prevent a "Las Vegas atmosphere."

“We’re delving into new territory with the changeable electronic signs. There are more and more of these signs, not just in Englewood, but throughout the country,” Smith said. Grilliot said that she has done extensive research regarding the signs.

“The questions are ‘Will it cause traffic accidents and will it be too glitzy?’” she said. “In the absence of research, caution is justified. With research, it may be time to look into it.”

“Many sign boards have incredible impact on business volume – 25 to 50 percent in an SBA survey, which has an impact on jobs and sales and profits,” she continued.

Smith is in agreement that the city should revisit the regulation.

“I think she’s right. We need to take a look at it. This would eventually get to Council, but first it will go the Planning Commission,” he said.

“Since she provided information to city staff, they can review it and provide input to the Planning Commission, who will make a recommendation to City Council,” Smith said.

Mayor Patricia Burnside presented two proclamations during the meeting.

The first was to Grace Brethren Village, a retirement community located at 1010 Taywood Road, as part of its celebration of 40 years of service to seniors in Englewood and surrounding areas.

The proclamation says that according to a 2010 Ohio Department of Aging survey, Grace Brethren Village scored highest in resident satisfaction in the Dayton area. It also has a five-star designation from the Center of Medicare/Medicaid Services.

On hand to accept the proclamation were Elnora Schopp, Faith Shock, Linda Geaslen, Executive Director Gene A. Geaslen and Administrator Michael Montgomery.

The other proclamation was presented to Happy Corner Church of the Brethren on celebrating 200 years as a separate congregation. The church was commended for serving a no-cost meal on Monday nights that is open to anyone and for partnering with other area churches to provide food items to Northmont FISH.

Accepting that proclamation were Jane Woodie, Pastor Kelly Meyerhoeffer, Jan Weaver, Carol Blouch and Jim Oren.