

Englewood, Meijer partnering to build new RTA bus shelter

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Photo by Marilyn McConahay

On behalf of the Englewood Police Department, Officer Kerry Smoot accepts a proclamation from Mayor Pat Burnside declaring May 15 to 21 as National Police Week in Englewood and May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of fallen officers, during the city's May 10 council meeting.



Photo by Marilyn McConahay

Clerk of Council Karen Sodders accepts a proclamation from Mayor Pat Burnside recognizing the week of April 24 to 30 (though past) as Administrative Professionals Week, during the May 10 Englewood Council meeting. Sodders accepted on behalf of the city's administrative staff, which includes Teri Davis, Nancy Rivkin, Greg Shewman, Matthew Frick and Diane Ralston.

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People who ride a bus to get to work or school or shop at the Englewood Meijer store will soon have a new place to protect them from the elements while they wait for their bus.

A new bus shelter will be constructed next to the Meijer Store at 9200 W. Main St., thanks to a cooperative effort between the of the City of Englewood and the Meijer Corporation.

The Englewood City Council approved the city's involvement with the project at its May 10 meeting by adopting legislation that will allow the city to participate in a Greater Dayton Regional Community Grant (GDRCG) program.

"This project is somewhat unique, as it creates a public/private partnership between the city and Meijer Corporation," wrote economic director Bill Singer in a memo to the council. "The city was approached by Meijer to submit the (grant) application on its behalf because it was not eligible to directly submit the application to GDRTA."

In his memo, Singer explained that grant money will pay for \$12,800 of the \$16,000 total cost of the bus shelter. The city will provide the matching portion of 20 percent, or \$3,200, and Meijer will reimburse the city for that amount. The project, which will include a concrete pad and shelter, will be managed by the city.

"It's on private property, but we are acting as the conduit for getting the bus shelter built," said city manager Eric Smith, who emphasized there will be no cost to the city for this project.

Council also adopted a resolution allowing the city to utilize a Montgomery County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$55,000 in a project that will make improvements to 102 sidewalks ramps to meet ADA standards. Although the city complied with CDBG bid advertising requirements, the only bid received was from Coate Construction of West Milton in the amount of \$96,900. The bid falls below the amount of \$110,000 already budgeted for the project.

The ramps are located in the neighborhood south of Interstate 70, north of Old Salem Road, east of Union Boulevard and west of Taywood Road.

"The project was advertised three times in the Dayton Daily News, but only the one bid showed up," Smith said.

During a discussion of why only one bid was submitted, Smith speculated it might have been because Coate has done so many projects for the city.

“A lot of contractors are probably discouraged from bidding. They probably know it’s a waste of their time,” Smith said.

He went on to explain that even with construction costs going up, owner Mike Mike Coate submitted a bid that came in lower than the city engineer’s estimate.

Another resolution was adopted to authorize utilization of an Ohio Public Works Grant for \$347,614 to fund Phase II of the city’s ongoing drainage channel improvement project. The contractor who won the bid for the project, Bob Evans Excavating of Hillsboro, agreed to hold to his company’s bid price, which was authorized in February of 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$348,000. Funds will be released on July 1.

An amendment also was approved that will affect release of public records, upon recommendation from Miami Valley Risk Management (MVRM) based on wordage suggested by the City of Vandalia. The changes are designed to help prevent people from requesting records they really don’t want but would be used to try to win a public records law suit, according to an accompanying memo.

“There’s nothing sinister about it,” Smith said. “It might help – it can’t hurt.”

Mayor Pat Burnside presented two proclamations, one recognizing the week of April 24 to 30 as Administrative Professionals Week and one acknowledging May 15 to 21 as National Police Week.

Karen Sodders, who serves as clerk of council and administrative assistant to the service and community development departments, accepted the first proclamation on behalf of fellow administrative personnel Teri Davis, Nancy Rivkin, Gary Shewman, Matthew Frick, and Diane Ralston.

Police Officer Kerry Smoot accepted the National Police Week proclamation for the police department.

Sabrina Pritchett and Hank Trimble, representing the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, made a PowerPoint presentation to the Council called “Community Conversation,” highlighting the RTA’s vision, its mission and its motto of “transporting people, connecting communities and delivering value.” Its impact on Englewood includes Routes 16 and 40, with 61 bus stops, 40,000 annual passenger trips and an investment of \$161,868.