

Englewood says no to state and third parties

by Englewood Independent on October 20, 2011

By Andrew Wilson

Contributing Writer

The City of Englewood has adopted a resolution preventing the state or any other third party entity from seeking control of its municipal income tax collection. The move comes in light of a growing notion that Gov. John Kasich and his staff may take control over the collection of municipal income taxes.

The city, which counts on revenue from local income tax for police, fire and emergency medical services, decided it was in their best interests to call their own shots.

“This will help our Finance Director keep better track of funds and help go after delinquent accounts,” said Patricia Burnside, mayor of Englewood. “It will help track the amount of money much more closely.”

City Council members urged local citizens to get involved in this matter by sending a letter to their representative or calling the state senator to inform them that allowing the state to take control over municipal income tax collection is a bad idea.

“It’s difficult enough to deal with the funds that the cities have if the state becomes involved and starts dipping their hands into the funds,” said Thomas Franz, vice mayor of Englewood. “It’s gonna be even less appropriate for the cities to be able to function.”

City officials added that due to recent reductions in the Local Government Fund, municipalities can ill afford another potential loss in revenue. Such a move would also make municipalities stop the exceptional service in the preparation and filing of tax returns, answering questions and resolution of delinquencies.

In other legislation a resolution approving the editing and updating of codified ordinances was also passed on Tuesday night. City Manager Eric Smith stated that this is a move that happens on an annual basis and “we have a legal service which recommends updates of state law and they’re included in our codified ordinances.”

Smith also gave a report providing insight into various events going on in the community, one of which is the painting of the water tower on Union Boulevard. Workers are currently working on the first of three layers, and they are making excellent progress despite the recent weather conditions.

The zoning for a new Chipotle restaurant that is going to be built in the Meijer parking lot on North Main Street was approved. The proposed 2240 square foot facility is said to include 45

seats as well as an outdoor patio and will be located in the northeast corner, near the gas station. The plan could also include future expansion, though it isn't known what will be added on just yet. Construction will begin in the near future.