

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 887

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize Anthony W. "Tony" Cox on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors is Anthony W. "Tony" Cox; and

WHEREAS, having served with distinction as City Administrator of Morristown for more than fourteen years, Mr. Cox is taking a well-deserved retirement on March 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished tenure with the City of Morristown, Tony Cox has provided solid leadership and thoughtful guidance for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox received a bachelor's degree in political science and government and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; he is also a graduate of the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service's Senior Executive Institute; and

WHEREAS, with some twenty-six years of experience in city management in Tennessee, Georgia, and Virginia, Tony Cox was appointed City Administrator of Morristown in 2010; and

WHEREAS, stepping into the job, Mr. Cox faced a divided board, a divided community, and a lack of confidence in city service delivery; within a few years, however, he managed to unite the city's leadership and the community at large while improving confidence in the city's operations; and

WHEREAS, under Tony Cox's leadership, the City of Morristown has seen numerous financial improvements, including addressing issues flagged by the comptroller's office and

seeing the city's fund balance grow from less than \$50,000 to more than \$12 million over a ten-year span; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox has also guided efforts to improve water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure in Morristown. He led the effort to address the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's order on sewer overflows by implementing a program to bring the city into compliance, reorganizing sewer and water operations to prevent duplication, establishing a stormwater fund, and addressing erosion and stormwater issues throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, other improvements under his leadership include a new "shepherding program" that assigns planning department staff to a project from beginning to end; the reorganization of city departments to create more efficiency; a building program to add a new fire station, public works facility, and community center; and assisting in the expansion of Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Morristown by coordinating use of the existing public works facility; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cox also led the effort to purchase the property of the Old Morristown College site and created a fifty-acre city park, the first major park addition in years; and

WHEREAS, as city administrator, he also helped implement a new farmers' market area and green space for event use; addressed issues in the downtown area; coordinated the effort to install a ceiling with a sound system under a unique, overhead sidewalk structure; and assisted the industrial development board with current manufacturing expansions and location of new manufacturing to Morristown; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the city management profession, Mr. Cox has a penchant for high standards and for finding, developing, and leading high-quality employees while fostering solid working relationships with all of the elected officials he serves; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cox's main responsibility, however, has always been to the citizens of Morristown and the people his city serves; he has devoted the best of himself to public service and to the notion that helping others through local government is his calling; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Cox was named City Manager of the Year for 2021 by the Tennessee City Management Association during the 81st Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cox has compiled a singular record of success as the city administrator of Morristown, while carrying out his responsibilities with diligence and integrity; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable accomplishments as a public servant and civic leader are directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Anthony W. "Tony" Cox for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as City Administrator of Morristown, extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.