Special Council Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2025
7:11PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a special session on Monday, August 25, 2025, at 7:11PM, at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

Councilwoman Miriam Rooks called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

Council President Ryan Piercefield was absent.

Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett, Town Manager John Myers, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

Budget Workshop- Town Manager John Myers stated that Fire Chief Justin Lollar needs middle management. Chief Lollar does not have a full-time assistant like the other departments. Mr. Myers stated that Chief Lollar came up with a plan to move up the current three captain positions off the engine to battalion chiefs and then fill the open seat on the engine with part-time staff.

Discussion was held regarding the tasks a battalion chief has and a recent incident where there was no incident command on the scene.

Chief Lollar discussed the department's staffing model.

Discussion was held regarding wages for battalion chiefs.

Discussion was held regarding whether Chief Lollar already had people to fill the battalion chief positions. Chief Lollar stated that those roles would be filled with the current captains.

Discussion was held regarding the department's increased call volume and increased revenue from the ambulance.

The Fire and EMS budget increased by $207,970 to cover additional part-time wages, social security, and unemployment for this change.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Town has been receiving money into the Racino Fund since approximately 2011 and it has accumulated a balance of $229,000. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Town receives approximately $18,000 annually in the Racino Fund that can be spent on almost anything. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed adding a $200,000 budget for this fund for capital expenditures or equipment replacement.

Town Manager John Myers stated that they have obtained three quotes for a dump truck and a grapple truck. Mr. Myers discussed the possibility of purchasing both pieces of equipment this year.

Discussion was held regarding using the remaining GO Bond funds to purchase the equipment.

Discussion was held regarding the public hearing for the 2026 budget that will be at the September 8, 2025, Council meeting, with the adoption at the September 22, 2025, Council meeting.

Scott Finley with Baker Tilly gave a presentation over the Town's updated cash flows. Mr. Finley discussed the total budgeted receipts and the change to the Fire and EMS budget. Mr. Finley discussed supplemental distributions and the upcoming changes to it due to legislative changes. Mr. Finley discussed the deficit and stated that with the changes, the budget will now have an operating balance of 52.6% if all of the 2025 budget is spent. Mr. Finley discussed the Rainy-Day Fund, and the balance is more of a management decision. Mr. Finley discussed net assessed values, Johnson County's net assessed value increased by 11.5% and Bartholomew County's increased by 1.5%. The Shelby County net assessed value has not been released yet.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed using the CCD Fund to pay the Van Ausdall quotes and monthly IT fees instead of the tax funded departments paying from their budget. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the annual IT fees for those departments are approximately the same amount that is brought in annually in the CCD fund. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked Mr. Finley to advise the council on the ability to change the CCD rate to the max $.05 that is allowed.

Mr. Finley discussed the revenue difference if the Town reestablished the CCD fund to $.05 as that fund is outside the maximum tax levy.

Mr. Finley discussed the 2026 LIT estimates. For certified shares there is an increase of approximately $91,000, for EDIT an increase of approximately $45,000, and for public safety an increase of approximately $8,635. Mr. Finley stated the main increase within the three counties was from Shelby County.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed Baker Tilly doing a study on local income tax and how it will affect the Town once it goes away in 2028.

Mr. Finley discussed how the local income tax is currently based on the population of the county and the upcoming changes with the new legislative changes.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Johnson County EDIT resolution expires this year and will need to be renewed in October. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed that currently the EDIT funds are used for downtown revitalization and two employee salaries.

Discussion was held regarding EDIT funds going away due to legislative changes.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed having Baker Tilly do a study on payment in lieu of taxes from the utilities to help offset revenue loss due to upcoming legislative changes.

Discussion was held regarding the Town's average annual surplus and how much of the budget is spent.

Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Edinburgh Council meetings.

The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffQyWphtcPehlL-R5g for as long as this media is supported.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

Ryan Piercefield, President

Miriam Rooks, Vice President

Debbie Buck

Sherri Sweet

Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer