Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 22, 2025
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

Council President Ryan Piercefield called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call- Council President Ryan Piercefield, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, and Councilwoman Sherri Sweet.

Councilwoman Debbie Buck and Councilman Michael Bryant were absent.

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

Minutes- Minutes of Council Meeting September 8, 2025

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025, Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded.

Minutes were tabled due to lack of quorum as President Piercefield was not in attendance at the September 8, 2025, meeting.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to rescind her motion to approve the September 8, 2025, Council Meeting minutes and table to the next meeting. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented three claim dockets; the end of month for June 2025 in the amount of $524,514.53; the end of month for July 2025 in the amount of $1,458,587.28; for tonight in the amount of $1,013,894.64.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the three claim dockets as presented. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

2026 Budget Public Hearing- Council President Piercefield opened the public hearing for the 2026 Budget Public Hearing. With no comments, President Piercefield closed the public hearing.

Ordinance 2025-13 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rates (1st Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett introduced Ordinance 2025-13 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rates. This is first reading and cannot be waived. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the total DLGF reviewed 2026 budget is $9,344,809, the non-reviewed total is $1,389,615, and the adopted levy is $6,301,800. The advertised tax rate is 3.2797 and should come back around 2.215 after review by the DLGF.

Scott Finley with Baker Tilly discussed the adoption of the advertised 3.2797 tax rate at the next council meeting, which will be significantly higher than what the tax rate will come back. Once the DLGF approves the budget the rate should come back closer to 2.215 which is almost identical to the current 2025 rate. The advertised tax rate does include anticipated debt that may or may not be issued for the redevelopment fund. If the Council decides not to move forward with the Redevelopment Bond, the tax rate would be $.09 less and would come back around the 2.12 range.

Mr. Finley discussed the levy amount being inflated to offer flexibility, and to ensure receipt of the maximum money allowed for 2026. Levy is advertised at $6.3 million and will be closer to $5.4 million after DLGF review.

Ordinance 2025-14 Authorizing Purchasing Agents to Make Advance Payments (1st Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that at a previous Council meeting she had requested Attorney Huddleston to review the Town's purchasing policy to update it to include allowance for up to 50% down payment to vendors. This is in accordance with the requirements of IC 5-11-10-1.6.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2025-14 Authorizing Purchasing Agents to Make Advance Payments. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-14 Authorizing Purchasing Agents to Make Advance Payments. Council President Piercefield seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Grabarczyk Settlement Agreement- Attorney Huddleston stated that the Town has a pending litigation with Jason Grabarczyk and Annette Young regarding keeping chickens within Town limits. The litigation is pending in the southern district of the United States Federal Court. Attorney Huddleston stated that a settlement agreement has been reached and encompasses those terms. Attorney Huddleston stated that Mr. Grabarczyk and Ms. Young can keep four chickens for their lifetime. Once those four chickens die, they cannot be replaced. Attorney Huddleston stated that this is being granted not to amend the Town's ordinance but as accommodation which is given to someone who has a disability. Attorney Huddleston stated that Mr. Grabarczyk has proven that he has a disability under the Fair Housing Act, which is a federal statute that allows accommodation. Mr. Huddleston stated this is granting this exception to the ordinance for this one set time and that everything else in the ordinance remains in effect and the ordinance has not been amended. Attorney Huddleston stated that Mr. Grabarczyk and Ms. Young will be paid $27,500, which was stipulated by the Town's insurance company. All matters will be dismissed and resolved. Attorney Huddleston stated that the four chickens will be microchipped so that the Town can monitor them and will be kept at a secure location on the property. The settlement has been negotiated between attorneys, and the document is ready for review and approval if the council chooses. Mr. Huddleston stated that the first step would be approval of the agreement by the council, and the second step would be to authorize someone to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Grabarczyk Settlement Agreement. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Grabarczyk Settlement Agreement. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Appropriation for Unpaid Electric Utility Sales Tax- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that July 2024 to April 2025, there was an error in the billing software that caused approximately thirty-nine commercial electric customers to be underbilled sales tax. The underbilled sales tax amounts to $38,751.03. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett requested to pay that amount and any accrued interest, not to exceed $5,000.

Discussion was held regarding the customers paying the underbilled sales tax amount. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Attorney Huddleston will send a letter out to the underbilled customers so that the Town can be reimbursed.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Appropriation for Unpaid Electric Utility Sales Tax as presented. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

NRO Downtown Plaza Fund Donation- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Town received $5,000 for the downtown plaza from Mibor Community Impact Initiative.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the NRO Downtown Plaza Fund Donation from Mibor Community Impact Initiative in the amount of $5,000. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

K-9 Fund Donation- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented a donation from A.T. Environmental for $150 and a donation from the Tiedeken family for $150.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated that the K9 Golf Outing was Saturday and $2,270 was additionally raised. Chief Little thanked the Timbergate staff for their assistance.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the K-9 Fund Donations as presented by Clerk-Treasurer Barrett and Police Chief Little. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Public Official Bond- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this is the annual public official bond for Town Manager John Myers. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this was approved at a previous Council meeting but had a typographical error and the recorder's office would not accept it. The insurance company has provided a new bond to replace the one with the error.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Public Official Bond for Town Manager John Myers. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Roof Replacement Quotes- Town Manager John Myers presented four quotes for the roof to be replaced at 712 South Eisenhower, which is the Cemetery rental house. Mr. Myers stated that the current roof is over 25 years old and is showing significant wear. Mr. Myers recommended going with the lowest quote of $15,940 from Moore's Roofing.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the roof replacement quote from Moore's Roofing in the amount of $15,940. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the roof replacement quote from Moore's Roofing. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Dump Truck Quotes- Street Superintendent Sean Barnett presented three quotes for a new dump truck. Superintendent Barnett stated that the street department's current dump truck is a 1990 and is falling apart. The quotes are for Mack $185,009.35, International $179,670.02 and a Ford F-750 $187,206.00.

Discussion was held regarding the differences in CDL weights between the quote for the International and the quote for the Mack.

Discussion was held regarding the warranty differences the International has a 24-month warranty, and the Mack has a 6-year/200,000-mile warranty.

Superintendent Barnett stated that the dump truck from each place is approximately 16 weeks out as they are outfitted with corporate equipment.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Dump Truck Quote from Vomac Truck Sales in the amount of $185,009.35 which has a 6-year 200,000-mile engine protection plan from Cummins. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Dump Truck Quote from Vomac Truck Sales. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Grappler Truck Quotes- Street Superintendent Sean Barnett presented three quotes for a grappler truck. Superintendent Barnett stated that they did get to demo all three trucks. Superintendent Barnett recommended going with the quote from Best Equipment Company with the lowest quote of $199,238.00.

Discussion was held concerning the chassis and the CDL weights.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Grappler Truck Quote from Best Equipment Company in the amount of $199,238.00. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion for Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Grappler Truck Quote from Best Equipment Company. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Other Business

Councilwoman Rooks thanked Parks Director Daniel Teter, Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread, and all departments for their assistance with the Fall Festival.

Town Manager John Myers thanked all the departments for their assistance with the Fall Festival for setting up and tearing down.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated that the K-9 fund will be receiving another donation of $2,200 from being dunked in the water tank at the Fall Festival which brings the total raised to almost $10,000. Chief Little thanked the community and businesses that participated in the golf outing.

Councilwoman Rooks thanked Timbergate Manager Wayne Gibbs for letting them use golf carts for the parade.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated that they finished water main flushing last night. Superintendent Jones stated that he had received the bids for the river crossing and also stated that he had received the three permits from IDEM, DNR, and the Army Corp of Engineers to repair the exposed water main by the dam, with plans to start work on that next week. Superintendent Jones stated that the newest section of homes in Timbergate will begin construction in the spring.

Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffOyWphtcPehlL-R5g for as long as this media is supported.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

Ryan Piercefield, President

Miriam Rooks

Miriam Rooks, Vice President

Absent

Debbie Buck

Sherri Sweet

Absent

Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer