Town Council Meeting
Monday, October 13, 2025
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, October 13, 2025, at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

Councilwoman Miriam Rooks called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Council President Ryan Piercefield arrived at 6:12PM.

Also present were Town Manager John Myers and Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett. Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston was present via phone call.

Minutes- Council Meeting September 8, 2025, minutes were tabled from the September 22, 2025, meeting due to a lack of quorum as Councilwoman Buck and Councilman Bryant were not in attendance at the September 22, 2025, meeting. Those two members are in attendance tonight so there is a quorum to approve September 8, 2025, minutes.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025, Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Council Meeting September 22, 2025

Councilwoman Rooks stated that this item would have to be tabled due to lack of quorum until Councilman Piercefield is in attendance.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented a claim docket in the amount $463,109.35. All claims have been reviewed and signed.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the claim docket as presented in the amount of $436,109.35. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2025-13 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rates (2nd Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented the ordinance for the 2026 budget tax rates and asked Scott Finley with Baker Tilly to present the information. Scott Finley with Baker Tilly stated that this is for the formal adoption of the Town's 2026 budget. Mr. Finley stated that the adopted tax rate, and adopted levies are inflated to give maximum flexibility when the 1782 notice comes in. Mr. Finley stated that the levy that will be adopted is $6,301,800 and the tax rate adopted is 3.2797, when the 1782 notice comes back it will be a levy of approximately $5,433,000 and a tax rate of 2.2150 which is just below what was approved for 2025. Mr. Finley discussed that this does depend on whether the Council decides to issue a redevelopment bond as previously discussed. Mr. Finley stated that if the Council decides to not issue a redevelopment bond, the levy will decrease by approximately $300,000 and drop the tax rate to 2.1274.

Discussion was held on next steps for the redevelopment bond.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-13 2026 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rates. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolution 2025-9 Johnson County EDIT Capital Improvement Plan- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that every two years the Town is required to approve a capital improvement plan for Johnson County Edit funds. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that previously the funds were used for downtown revitalization and economic development employees' salaries, this plan mirrors what was in the 2023 plan.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-9 Johnson County EDIT Capital Improvement Plan. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Wessler Invoice #48000 for Water Treatment Plant- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Wessler Invoice #48000 in the amount of $6,257.50. Water Superintendent Bill Jones has reviewed and approved the invoice.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice #48000 for Water Treatment Plan in the amount of $6,257.50. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to authorize Councilwoman Rooks to sign off on Wessler Invoice #48000. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

AIC TRECS Memorandum of Understanding- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) have a program that the Town can partner with to collect outstanding debt through state tax refunds. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Town has approximately 300 delinquent debts that total to approximately $75,000 going back to 2013.

Discussion was held regarding the minimum amount the Town could collect from outstanding debt and if there was any cost to the Town for using this program.

Discussion was held regarding how people could pay their outstanding debt.

Discussion was held regarding Attorney Huddleston's review.

Council President Ryan Piercefield arrived at 6:12PM. Councilwoman gave President Piercefield a review of what had been discussed regarding the Memorandum of Understanding.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston review the AIC TRECS Memorandum of Understanding. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Public Official Bond- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there are two public official bonds in the amount of $15,000 each for Hector Mercado as the Police Pension Board Secretary and John Henderson as the Firefighter Pension Board Secretary.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Public Official Bond for Hector Mercado. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Public Official Bond for John Henderson. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Correction to July 28, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that at the July 28, 2025, Town Council meeting there was a motion to approve three board members to the 77 Fund of Metropolitan Police and Fire Commissioners. The motion should have only been for the Metropolitan Police Board as there currently is no Fire Commissioner Board.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve the Correction to July 28, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Budget Billing Discussion- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the utility office does budget billing for customers that sets their electricity at a set rate for an annual amount based off their last 12 months of usage. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there are several large bills when it's catch-up month. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett requested to adjust budget billing amounts every six months instead of annually.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there is a software class that covers budget billing that the utility office staff would like to attend on October 23, 2025. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett requested to close the utility office on October 23, 2025, from 10AM-12PM for staff to attend the software training.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve budget billing to be adjusted every six months instead of annually. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the utility office to be closed on October 23, 2025, from 10AM-12PM. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Trick or Treat Hours- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that trick or treat hours need set for Halloween this year. The trick or treat hours last year were 6PM-8:30PM.

Discussion was held regarding the end time for trick or treat hours and what the hours were in previous years.

Discussion was held regarding closing East Main Cross Street again this year for trick or treat.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to set the 2025 Trick or Treat Hours to 6PM-8PM. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Road Closure Request- Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread requested to close East Main Cross Street from Kyle Street to Harrell Drive during trick or treat hours.

Discussion was held regarding closing the road starting at 5:00PM to allow time for the side streets to be closed before trick or treat starts.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Road Closure Request for Friday, October 31, 2025, from 5:00PM-8PM. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Other Business

Councilwoman Sweet commended Timbergate for their assistance with the Edinburgh Community Education Foundation's golf scramble that was held there a few weeks ago.

Councilwoman Rooks thanked Timbergate Manager Wayne Gibbs for allowing their golf carts to be used during the Fall Festival parade.

Town Manager John Myers requested approval of September 22, 2025, Council Meeting minutes now that there was a quorum.

Minutes - Council Meeting September 22, 2025

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the September 22, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Town Manager John Myers stated that the departments are preparing for winter and working together.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated that the exposed river crossing water main had been fixed and covered up. Superintendent Jones stated that they had a pre-bid meeting today and two bid openings will be October 29, 2025, for the water tower mixers and water main projects.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that the Town was awarded a $100,000 grant from Festival Country for the downtown plaza project. Director Drybread stated that the Town received another $50,000 from Ready 2.0. The Town has received $270,000 in grant money so far for the downtown plaza project. Director Drybread stated that there was supposed to be an inspector from Gosman Construction to inspect the building at 201 West Main Cross Street, but it was rescheduled to next week due to an emergency. Director Drybread stated that there is a chili cook off at Gillman's on Friday, October 17, 2025, with the fire department. Director Drybread stated that each vote is $1, and all the proceeds go to the Edinburgh Cheer Fund. Director Drybread stated that the Washington D.C. trip went on sale last week and sold out within a day.

Council President Piercefield stated that Trafalgar was also awarded $100,000 from Festival Country and they approached the Town about using limestone from the dam to build their amphitheater and put a plaque memorializing the dam. President Piercefield stated that he has offered to move the limestone for both the Town of Edinburgh and the Town of Trafalgar.

Public Comments

Jason Newton, 5540 E Sawin Dr, Columbus, IN, stated that he and Duane House were here on behalf of Driftwood Utilities about an interest in pursuing an agreement with Edinburgh's wastewater treatment. Mr. Newton stated that they had previously looked at some options with Wessler and are still interested in an agreement with the Town. Mr. Newton stated that they were possibly misguided concerning the engineering results as the focus from Wessler was Driftwood Utilities using Edinburgh at 100-105% with growth and that was not the intention of Driftwood Utilities, the intention was to help Edinburgh get to 98-100% capacity for Edinburgh to operate more efficiently. Initially the original scope of the project was whether or not Driftwood could grow north on 31. Mr. Newton asked if the Town is still interested in pursuing an agreement with Driftwood Utilities.

Council President Piercefield stated that Driftwood Utilities has their own wastewater that services Taylorsville and is currently pumping it to the city of Columbus who has had a substantial rate increase. They are looking for an agreement for interconnection similar to what the Town has with Eastern Bartholomew Water to be a source of revenue for the Town of Edinburgh.

Councilwoman Rooks asked about the amount of money spent recently regarding the wastewater treatment plant's equipment and whether it could handle the additional flow. Councilwoman Rooks also asked about how this would effect the capacity of our plant for the potential housing development to the north.

Discussion was held regarding whether the agreement would bring revenue to the Town, regarding the wastewater treatment plant's equipment and whether it could handle the additional flow and the wastewater treatment plant's capacity.

Jason Newton with Driftwood Utilities stated that they have a 400,000 gallon per day system, and they have peak flows in a heavy rain of 1,000,000 gallons, they are proposing to not send 400,000 gallons per day, but instead send 200,000 – 300,000 gallons per day to give the Town of Edinburgh the opportunity to build up an income stream and find out if it would cause problems elsewhere. Mr. Newton stated that they are looking for a commitment for Driftwood to spend approximately $3 million to put in the infrastructure to come North on 31, they have a lot of commercial development coming in and it makes sense to connect North to Edinburgh rather than South to Columbus. They have 2 major lift stations that during high peak times can direct some of the flow to the North and some to the South.

Councilwoman Buck asked if this should be an agenda item to be discussed at a future meeting.

Council President stated that he felt this was the best way to introduce this to the board before adding it to the agenda and if the Town wants to pursue then it could be put on the agenda at a later date.

Mr. Newton stated that they are currently billed on a per thousand rate from the City of Columbus and they would want to be billed the same way by the Town.

Further discussion was held concerning adding this to a future agenda.

Councilwoman Sweet asked about the current capacity usage of the plant. Superintendent Jessie stated that currently the average flow is around 450,000 gallons per day and the plant is designed for 1.5 million per day.

Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Absent
Sherri Sweet

Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer