Town Council Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, August 10, 2026, 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, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, Councilwoman Debbie Buck and Councilman Michael Bryant.

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

Minutes- Council Meeting July 27, 2026

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the July 27, 2026, meeting minutes as attended by Council President Ryan Piercefield, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilwoman Miriam Rooks. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Minutes were signed only by the three in attendance at the July 27, 2026 meeting.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented two claim dockets; the end of month for May docket in the amount of $165,207.91; the docket for tonight in the amount of $326,641.43. All claims have been reviewed and signed.

Discussion was held regarding the ESI claim and the number of inspections done in July.

Planning Director Julie Young stated that approximately 55 inspections were done in July.

Discussion was held regarding the claim for Sam's Club in the amount of approximately $7,800 and the amount of $5888.61 portion of the bill being for pool concession supplies over a one-month period.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the two claim dockets in the amounts of $165,207.91 and $326,641.43 as presented. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Wessler Invoice #50233 for Water Treatment Plant- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Wessler invoice #50233 in the amount of $1,710. Water Superintendent Bill Jones has reviewed and signed.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice #50233 for Water Treatment Plant in the amount of $1,710. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Wessler Invoice #50233 for Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Police K9 Golf Outing Donations- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented a total of $3,145 in donations for the Police K9 golf outing from Bo-Witt Products, Guardian K-9, RK Auto Electric, Phoenix Guns, Nancy West, A.T. Environmental, Michael Schrader, Samtec Inc, Sherri Sweet, and Edinburgh Methodist Church.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Police K9 Fund Golf Outing Donations totaling $3,145 as presented. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Huston Electric Pay Application #2R- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Huston Electric Pay Application #2R in the amount of $3,045.30 for the retainage payout now that the job is complete.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Huston Electric Pay Application #2R in the amount of $3,045.30. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Huston Electric Pay Application #2R. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Reject Bids for Electric Projects- Electric Manager Kevin Killinger requested the Council reject the bids for the last three substation items as several bidders did not submit everything correctly. Manager Killinger stated that with the updated purchasing policy they will not have to go through the bid process for all the items again.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to reject the Bids for Electric Projects as presented. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Daupler Notify Proposal- Electric Manager Kevin Killinger stated that this has been discussed at previous Council meetings.

Discussion was held regarding the quote being $14,999 for a three-year contract.

Manager Killinger stated that there was a water incident today where this system could have been utilized to notify the nine residents affected.

Discussion was held regarding the cost being split between the three utilities.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the Daupler Notify Proposal in the amount of $14,999 from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

TextMyGov Proposal- Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that this has been discussed at previous Council meetings. Director Drybread stated that this is different from Daupler Notify and is more about community engagement whereas Daupler Notify is for the utility side. Director Drybread discussed that you could see on a map which citizens had enrolled or opted out. Director Drybread discussed how we would be allowed 50,000 text messages per year.

Discussion was held regarding citizens having to opt in for notifications.

Discussion was held regarding whether any type of poll or study had been done to see how many people would be interested in this.

Director Drybread discussed that they have asked TextMyGov for the opt in percentage for similar sized communities and how the percentage varies on how well you market the program.

Discussion was held regarding whether anyone could opt in for notifications, even people who do not live in town.

Discussion was held regarding the price based on population size and the cost of going over the 50,000-text message limit.

Discussion was held regarding the contract being for a three-year term and what budget the funding for this would come from.

Councilwoman Sweet stated that she would like to see if TextMyGov could do an annual contract instead of a three-year term.

Director Drybread stated that she can reach out to TextMyGov and ask if they do annual contracts instead.

Helisieve Replacement Quote- Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie presented the Helisieve replacement quote in the amount of $138,780 with an optional add for a new drive motor in the amount of $25,000. Superintendent Jessie stated that he sees no reason not to replace the gearbox and motor so it all can be done at once. Superintendent Jessie discussed that this is a fine screen that the Vogelsang X-ripper cutter grinds everything down to small particles that then run through this fine screen. Superintendent Jessie further described what the fine screen looks like and that it removes the fine particles before the biological treatment so that the system can operate without being plugged up by heavy material. Superintendent Jessie stated that the 20-year-old machine is completely down and has a shaft twisted in two.

Councilwoman Buck asked if this was budgeted for.

Superintendent Jessie stated that it had not and money had never been set aside for a replacement.

Discussion was held regarding how these pieces of equipment would be paid for.

Councilwoman Rooks asked about all three items that were listed on the agenda as a lump total and all items are needed, will these three items be paid from one fund or paid separate.

Council President Piercefield asked if they could look at bond options.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she would have to check with Baker Tilly on reimbursing expenses from a bond.

Discussion was held regarding the 10–15-week lead time for these pieces of equipment.

Clerk Treasurer Barrett asked if there is a highest need list for the equipment, if there is one item that has to be purchased at this time.

Superintendent Jessie stated that they are at a point where they cannot put this off any longer. Superintendent Jessie discussed that these three pieces of equipment were in their last IDEM report and that they are aware they are broken down and if approved to repair that could be reported back to IDEM that we are moving forward to get them repaired. Superintendent Jessie stated that the total cost for all three pieces of equipment is $389,899.

President Piercefield asked if they could borrow the money to pay for this from the electric department funds.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated other options were to take out a loan from the rainy-day funds, but she is not sure how the wastewater department would pay it back, or they could just pay for it using rainy day funds without doing a loan.

Discussion was held regarding the number of major items the wastewater department needs and that this is just the beginning.

Discussion was held regarding the timeframe there would be if they took the loan from the rainy-day fund.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that typically they must be paid back by the end of the year.

Town Manager John Myers stated that if the wastewater department takes a loan from the electric department, they have five years to pay it back and there will be an interest rate.

President Piercefield was highly opposed to paying ourselves interest and stated that they must take care of the department that's struggling, and the Town must have wastewater. President Piercefield stated that they have caught up the other departments that have been a can kicked down the road for the last 20 years.

Discussion was held regarding bonds taking time and whether it would be better to loan the funds from the rainy-day fund or electric department.

President Piercefield stated that Attorney Huddleston can contact the bond council.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that in order to purchase the equipment using rainy-day funds, she will have to come to the next meeting with additional appropriations.

Discussion was held regarding the total amount needed to replace and update everything needed at the wastewater department.

Superintendent Jessie stated that it would be approximately $10 million to rebuild everything, replace equipment, and bring it up to par.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that even if they do a bond, the wastewater department does not have enough revenue coming in to pay it back. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that they have a rate study that has been sitting on the back burner, and she does not want rates to increase, but they are not bringing in enough funds.

Discussion was held regarding having Attorney Huddleston draft a loan from the rainy-day fund or the electric department.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to decide which way would be best to fund this so that the wastewater department can back up and running correctly. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding whether they could do ahead and approve the presented quotes and to present each individual amount.

President Piercefield stated that the Grit Collector Replacement Quote and the Vogelsang X-Ripper Cutter Replacement Quote with the Helisieve Replacement Quote totals $389,899.

President Piercefield made a motion to authorize Superintendent Jessie to contact the equipment vendors to let them know the Council approved the purchase of the pieces of equipment in the amount of $389,899. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Grit Collector Replacement Quote- Please reference the Helisieve Replacement Quote above.

Vogelsang X-Ripper Cutter Replacement Quote- Please reference the Helisieve Replacement Quote above.

Employee Training Agreement- Timbergate Manager Wayne Gibbs stated that Assistant Golf Pro Javan Johnson would like to get his accreditation to be a teaching golf professional. Manager Gibb stated that it will cost approximately $4,200 over four years for Mr. Johnson to get his accreditation.

Discussion was held regarding having Mr. Johnson sign a contract similar to what the electric linemen do and to have Attorney Huddleston to draft an Employee Training Agreement.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Attorney Huddleston to draft an Employee Training Agreement for Javan Johnson. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Wessler Waterworks Master Agreement Amendment 10- Taylor Greathouse with Wessler Engineering stated that this is the 10th amendment to the agreement for an additional not to exceed amount of $7,500. The purpose of this agreement is to add additional money to continue working through spending down the remaining SRF loan. Ms. Greathouse discussed that they will be putting together another quote package to replace a few Perma seal valves as discussed at the previous Council meeting.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Wessler Waterworks Master Agreement Amendment 10. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Oil Containment System Quote- Logan Sweeney with Alpha Engineering recommend purchasing an oil containment system from Basic Concepts for $33,995.69 for the industrial substation. Mr. Sweeney stated that this is a standard piece of equipment for any substation that prevents oil from getting into the soil if there were ever any type of leak. Mr. Sweeney stated that they reached out to four other vendors, but they were unable to provide quotes for the specified containment system needed. Mr. Sweeney stated that the installation of this was included in the previous construction agreement which had already been approved.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Oil Containment System Quote from Basic Concepts in the amount of $33,995.69. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Cemetery Cradle Row- Daniel and Aubrei Teter with the Joseph Fund stated that when they lost their son Joseph in 2021, they learned quickly the expenses of burying a child as there is no life insurance policy on children who have not been born. Mr. Teter stated that they noticed how many Cradle Row plots at Rest Haven Cemetery were missing headstones so they officially launched the Joseph Fund in March 2025 to help cover expenses for families that must bury their infant child. Mr. Teter stated that they would like to utilize the funds to purchase the 23 remaining cradle row plots and asked the Council if they would waive the grave opening and closing costs for these plots so that families that must utilize cradle row do not have any cemetery expenses. Mr. Teter stated there are one to two infant burials at Rest Haven every year.

Council President Piercefield asked if the Council could do more to help and reduce the cost by 50%.

Discussion was held regarding if the Town could go against it's fee schedule.

Discussion was held regarding donating all the plots to the Joseph Fund.

President Piercefield made a motion to donate the remaining cradle row plots to the Joseph Fund and to waive the grave opening/closing costs. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Other Business

Councilwoman Sweet thanked Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie, Assistant Wastewater Superintendent Jake Sizemore, Water Superintendent Bill Jones, Electric Manager Kevin Killinger, Street Superintendent Sean Barnett, and Parks Director Daniel Teter for meeting with her last week. Councilwoman Sweet stated that she was impressed with their departments, knowledge, and experience. Councilwoman Sweet stated that Superintendent Jones gave her a tour of all the wells and she was amazed at the capacity they have. Councilwoman Sweet stated that Superintendent Jones was Water Manager of the Year for 2025 and the Southeast District and Indiana AWWA Meter Challenge Champion and then placed 10th in the nation in Washington D.C. Councilwoman Sweet stated that Manager Killinger brings an abundance of experience to the electric department and has a good team that works hard. Councilwoman Sweet stated that when she has electric outages it is not long before they get it back on. Councilwoman Sweet stated that she looks forwards to touring the new industrial substation when it is complete. Councilwoman Sweet stated that Superintendent Barnett has a clean, neat garage and was knowledgeable about each piece of equipment they have. Councilwoman Sweet stated that she brags that when it snows, Edinburgh is clear when all other city/states roads are still covered. Councilwoman Sweet stated that Director Teter has a large department and number of properties he maintains. Councilwoman Sweet stated that he has an exciting vision for the future and programs and activities are needed to entice people to our community. Councilwoman Sweet stated that she attended the National Night Out last week and spoke to Fire Chief Justin Lollar and Police Chief Doyne Little about their departments, vehicles, and their success. Councilwoman Sweet stated it was a great night honoring the public safety departments. Councilwoman Sweet stated that her only concern was when she toured the wastewater plant and Superintendent Jessie was genuinely concerned with all the emergency repairs needed. Councilwoman Sweet stated that since she toured the plant last two years ago, there has been substantial deterioration to the point of structural rust where standard maintenance no longer works. Councilwoman Sweet stated that they need new equipment desperately but have no money in the budget to increase it. The wastewater rates have not increased since 2016. Councilwoman Sweet stated that like everyone else, she does not want the fees increased and works more than one job, but she wants her water to be clean and toilets to flush. Councilwoman Sweet stated that unfortunately, she believes the Council need to look at increasing the wastewater fees to make repairs at the wastewater plant. Councilwoman Sweet stated that overall. They have great departments and knowledgeable superintendents.

Councilwoman Rooks stated that she also does not like to see rates increase but it is probably going to happen somewhere down the line. Councilwoman Rooks stated that it is difficult to go to work every day with faulty equipment, but Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie has a good crew. Councilwoman Rooks asked Electric Manager Kevin Killinger about his report mentioning handpicking weeds out of live structure.

Manager Killinger stated that it is a fenced off area for only authorized personnel where transformers are and the overgrown weeds had to be handpicked.

Councilwoman Rooks asked about Manager Killinger's report mentioning hiring goats to mow the new industrial substation site.

Manager Killinger stated that they were looking into legit goats as another mowing option, but they were booked up for a while, so they used mechanical mowing instead with help from the Street department.

Council President Piercefield stated that he was proud of the Council to make that donation to the Joseph Fund and that is one less burden for somebody to bear at their worst time. President Piercefield stated that the fire department just replaced tires that were from 2005. President Piercefield stated that there was a lot of complacency, but they are all moving the ball forward now. President Piercefield discussed some upgrades made throughout the Town in the

last few years. President Piercefield thanked everyone for their hard work and stated that despite what social media says, everyone is doing a fantastic job.

Town Manager John Myers stated that he and Timbergate Manager Wayne Gibbs met with a company on Friday regarding the Timbergate ponds. Mr. Myers stated that the company's biochemist is going to come to check the water and believe they may be able to solve the problem. Mr. Myers stated that the cracked planter box at Timbergate was taken out this week.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there will be budget workshops on August 17, August 24, and August 31. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked the Council if they have any recommendations for the departments to use regarding raises or increases. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she and Town Manager John Myers met with Scott Finley with Baker Tilly regarding the CFP rough draft. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that if they make a 3% increase on everything for the entire budget, the budget will not be fully funded with the expected revenues coming in and would eat into the Town's reserves by approximately $598,000. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated they have an exit conference regarding the recent audit with the State Board of Accounts on Thursday morning if any of the Council members could attend. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there is a MUST meeting in Shelby County on August 19, 2026, at 6PM.

Clint Lamb with AIM stated that for the last two and a half years he has been the field services representative for Southern Indiana. Mr. Lamb stated that he was previously a three-term mayor in Sullivan, IN. Mr. Lamb stated that SEA 1 2025 was legislation's attempt to provide taxpayers with property tax relief. Mr. Lamb stated that different communities are affected differently and Edinburgh is a little complex because it is in three counties. Mr. Lamb discussed the local, neighboring communities he has met with over the last few weeks. Mr. Lamb discussed that no matter what structures legislation puts into place, it is going to be very difficult to make the community whole. Mr. Lamb encouraged the Council to stay engaged in the process and to take the MUST process very seriously as this is one of the only times legislation has asked for feedback from communities and municipalities.

Discussion was held regarding how that approximate $598,000 shortage would be paid for.

Town Manager John Myers asked if the Council wanted to strive for a balanced budget or if they want to eat into the Town's cash reserves.

Councilwoman Buck stated a balanced budget.

Council President Piercefield stated that he cannot give an answer on that right now.

Mr. Myers stated that they will present both. A balanced budget and a budget with a 3% across the board increase.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated that they have been extremely busy and there are a lot of folks struggling with frustrations and mental illness. Chief Little stated that as a father to a stillborn child, it is amazing what the Council did for the Joseph Fund tonight.

Fire Chief Justin Lollar thanked the fellowship of churches for providing food and everything for the National Night Out.

Planning Director Julie Young stated that they conducted 68 inspections in July and she will start including that number in her monthly reports.

Cemetery Superintendent Stan Brown thanked the Teter family for their love and commitment to the community. Superintendent Brown stated that this is going to go a long way and will be remembered for a long time.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated that the pool is still open on the weekends and has had record attendance this year. Director Teter stated that the Fall Festival is coming up and the new playground at Irwin Park will be installed in early September. Director Teter thanked the Council for their compassion and caring and stated that Edinburgh is a special place and every time something happens, everyone is good at helping each other.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread discussed the Stellar Pathways Program and some of the communities that have been a part of it. Director Drybread discussed the different comprehensive pathways and the groundwork that would need to be done. Director Drybread discussed that we would be approaching this as a town and not a regional pathway. Director Drybread discussed the questionnaire that needs to be filled out and that the Town would have to have funding for the matching dollars. Director Drybread stated that she has been working with someone from IMPA on interactive digital mapping tools that could live on the Town's website. Director Drybread discussed that one of the tools would highlight the Town's assets and amenities and could be used for an overlay of utilities and zoning. The other tool is for drone footage over Industrial Park and stated that there has been a lot of interest in Industrial Park recently and this is a free tool. Director Drybread stated that they had a meeting last week to tweak the plaza designs.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated that there were nine customers in Timbergate without water today from approximately 12:45PM to 4:00PM due to a water line repair and those customers are now under a boil water advisory. Superintendent Jones stated that they went door-to-door and left door hangers for each house. Superintendent Jones stated that they had two service leaks today. Superintendent Jones discussed that the library has handrails they are replacing and asked if the Town would want them. Superintendent Jones discussed some of

the recent repairs the library has done including repouring the steps, lighting upgrades, new flooring soon, and installing a security system soon.

Discussion was held that if no one can use the handrails then they can be thrown away.

Adjourn

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

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Edinburgh Town Council meeting. The full video archive of meetings is available for viewing at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffQyWphtcPehlL-R5g for as long as this media is supported.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

Absent
Ryan Piercefield, President

Miriam Rooks
Miriam Rooks, Vice President

Debbie Buck
Debbie Buck

Sherri Sweet
Sherri Sweet

Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett
Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer