Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2026
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 28, 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 Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

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

Minutes- Special Council Meeting August 31, 2026

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the August 31, 2026, Special Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Sweet and Councilman Bryant abstained.

September 14, 2026, Council Meeting minutes

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the September 14, 2026, Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Buck abstained.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented two claim dockets: one for the end of July in the amount of $537,607.68 and one for tonight in the amount of $1,091,746.24. All claims have been reviewed and signed.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the two claims as presented in the amount of $537,607.68 and $1,091,746.24. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

2027 Budget Public Hearing- Council President Piercefield opened the public hearing for the 2027 Budget.

With no comments, President Piercefield closed the public hearing.

Ordinance 2026-14 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rates (1st Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the advertised 2027 budget is $10,462,503 with an advertised tax rate of 2.7178. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the 2027 budget is approximately $272,000 less than the 2026 budget and the advertised tax rate is 0.5619 less than the 2026 advertised tax rate. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this is the first reading, and it cannot be waived. The budget adoption is scheduled for October 12, 2026.

Ordinance 2026-11 Amending Ordinance 2026-4 Establishing Salaries (1st Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the salary ordinance currently states that the pool manager's position is an 18-week position. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the pool opened a week earlier this year and with staying open until Labor day, the pool manager worked for 19 weeks. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this

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updates the salary ordinance to state the position is for 18-20 weeks, the other update is for adding verbiage that the deputy clerk-treasurer positions pay will be split.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2026-11 Amending Ordinance 2026-4 Establishing Salaries. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-11 Amending Ordinance 2026-4 Establishing Salaries. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2026-12 Creating A Non-Reverting Building and Construction Fees Fund (1st Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated that this reflects a new state law that went into effect in July that mandates any fees collected on building funds must be put into a non-reverting fund.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2026-12 Creating A Non-Reverting Building and Construction Fees Fund. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-12 Creating A Non-Reverting Building and Construction Fees Fund. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2026-13 Amending Chapter 50 Regarding Sewage Works (1st Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated that this was Wessler Engineering's effort to revamp the section of the Town's municipal code regarding sewage works and make it more detailed. Attorney Huddleston stated that this is part of the ongoing effort to update and fix things at the wastewater plant. This provides more regulation and tools for enforcement.

Discussion was held regarding the section of the ordinance that references the fee schedule regarding permits.

Attorney Huddleston stated that once this ordinance is approved that the fee schedule would need to be amended.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2026-13 Amending Chapter 50 Regarding Sewage Works. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-13 Amending Chapter 50 Regarding Sewage Works. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2026-13 Adopting Enforcement Response Plan- Attorney Huddleston stated that Wessler Engineering also recommended adopting this ERP which is a provision of plans in case certain events happen with wastewater that a plan is in place. Attorney Huddleston stated that this is recommended by federal recommendations and IDEM.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-13 Adopting Enforcement Response Plan. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

K9 Golf Outing Donations- Clerk-Treasurer presented K9 golf outing donations totaling $1,390 from Watts Heating & Cooling, James/Jody Czernobil, Michael/Melissa Snyder, and various donations from the outing.

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Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve the K9 Golf Outing Donations as presented. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

2026 Chevrolet Silverado Quotes- Town Manager John Myers stated that a tree fell on the Dodge Durango and was totaled by insurance. Mr. Myers stated that the dealer that the police department bought their trucks earlier this year and have one white truck left. Mr. Myers requested to purchase the truck to replace the Durango. Mr. Myers stated that the Durango was purchased 11 years ago for approximately $40,000. Mr. Myers stated that the truck quote is $49,842 and discussed why a truck would be more feasible.

Discussion was held regarding receiving $13,000 for the Durango from insurance to go towards a new vehicle.

Discussion was held regarding why a truck would be more feasible than a car.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the 2026 Chevrolet Silverado Quote from Kelley Chevrolet in the amount of $49,842.00. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Vehicle Pursuit Standard Operating Procedure Amendment- Police Chief Doyne Little stated that this was discussed at a previous Council meeting. Chief Little discussed the PIT procedure being another tool they can use when a suspect is fleeing. Chief Little stated that officers have been killed throughout the state when putting out stop sticks.

Discussion was held regarding who would do the training.

Discussion was held regarding whether every officer would be trained in this.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Vehicle Pursuit Standard Operating Procedure Amendment. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Vehicle Donation- Police Chief Doyne Little stated that he was contacted by the Trafalgar Police Department about donating a vehicle to them due to one of their two vehicles having engine problems. Chief Little requested to donate a 2019 Dodge Charger to the Trafalgar Police Department

Discussion was held regarding the Town doing this previously for the school and the Town of Carthage.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to draft a resolution for the Police Vehicle Donation. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Timbergate Section Five Bonds and Plat- Planning Director Julie Young stated that an erosion control bond has been submitted for the construction at Timbergate. Director Young stated that the water has been completed and passed testing, so a maintenance bond has been submitted. Director Young stated that the other items have not been completed so they have submitted performance bonds which they are allowed to do under state law to record the plat. Director Young stated that those have been submitted to Attorney Huddleston for review and asked if Attorney Huddleston has any other items that he would recommend before they are formally accepted and the plat is signed.

Attorney Huddleston stated that there are associated easements with the plat and recommended approving the plat with the bonds that it would be subject to the easements being recorded and provided to the Council.

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Discussion was held regarding how the infrastructure and utilities were going.

Discussion was held regarding erosion control.

Director Young stated that any permits issued would be subject to the infrastructure being completed, the home would need to have sanitary sewer before a certificate of occupancy could be issued.

Discussion was held regarding how many plots were left in Timbergate and this being the last section of Timbergate.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Timbergate Section Five Plan and Performance Bonds listed in the staff report subject to easements being recorded. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Documents-On-Demand Proposal- Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that they have been working on the transition to the new website with Revize and Revize can only transfer 3,000 pages and documents to the new website. Director Drybread stated that there are over 1,700 obituaries alone on the Town website. Director Drybread stated that she and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Emily Cravens have been going through every document and each page of the current website to see if any are no longer needed. Revize recommended Documents-On-Demand to store older documents. Director Drybread stated that Documents-On-Demand would take you to a website that looks like the Town's, but it would be full of obituaries or older documents. Director Drybread discussed how Documents-On-Demand could be utilized and the amount of storage. Director Drybread stated that it is a annual cost of $750 with a one-time set up fee of $750.

Discussion was held regarding Documents-On-Demand initially transferring over 3,000 documents then any additional documents would have to be uploaded.

Director Drybread discussed that they were looking to start migration to the new website, hoping to go live in November.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Documents-On-Demand Proposal. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Documents-On-Demand Proposal. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Other Business

Councilwoman Sweet stated that the school is excited about their police car that the Town donated and that the Fall Festival was amazing.

Councilwoman Rooks thanked everyone for their work on the Fall Festival.

Council President Piercefield stated that the public safety team was busy during the Fall Festival week and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Town Manager John Myers stated that every department pitched in and thanked everyone for their hard work during the Fall Festival, everything was all cleaned up bright and early on Sunday morning.

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Police Chief Doyne Little thanked everyone for their work during the Fall Festival and he also discussed the high-speed training the department had.

Cemetery Superintendent Stan Brown thanked Edinburgh Fire and Rescue for their professionalism and training when they responded to a medical emergency regarding his niece. Superintendent Brown stated that they were quick, professional, and handled it perfectly. Superintendent Brown stated that he was truly impressed and that if it weren't for them, she would not be here today.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated that the St Rd 252 project is still progressing, and infrastructure is supposed to be done by the end of next week on the infrastructure. Superintendent Jones stated that they have been averaging four water main breaks a week for the last three weeks.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated that all the departments pitched in for the Fall Festival and thanked everyone for their work on it. Director Teter stated that they have the Halloween Festival the Friday before Halloween and Holiday of Lights will be the second Saturday of December. Director Teter stated that they are doing landscaping revamping work but the full vision will not take place until spring.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that she has been working on Stellar Pathways designations and is looking for any inputs on sidewalks and trails. Director Drybread stated that someone is looking at the property on N US 31 again. Director Drybread thanked the Council for their support on the Pixy Project and that people are excited for that project to take off. Director Drybread stated that they were awarded another $100,000 to go towards the Pixy project. Director Drybread stated that they are around 75% of the way with the RVi design process team on the downtown plaza project design.

Public Comments

Jason Newton 5540 Sawin Drive, Columbus, Indiana, with Driftwood Utilities stated that they did further research regarding what was discussed at the previous Council meeting with the Town being a conduit for Driftwood Utilities to apply for an OCRA grant. Mr. Newton stated that after further research, if the Town acted as a conduit, the Town would not be able to pursue an OCRA grant for five years. Mr. Newton stated that they would still like the Town to be their conduit so they can go to the Indiana Bond Bank, which would not be any liability to the town, they just want to be able to apply through the Town.

Councilwoman Rooks asked why Bartholomew County is not helping with this.

Mr. Newton stated that they would have to ask Bartholomew County for a lot of different things, the County would ask a bunch of different questions, and the point of building the main sewer line is to connect to the Town of Edinburgh.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if this would affect the Town going to the Indiana Bond Bank.

Mr. Newton stated that this would have nothing to do with the Town applying to the bond bank on a project. Mr. Newton stated that they checked with the bond bank and the Town can have multiple applications at once.

Discussion was held regarding this being similar to the Town being a co-signer on Driftwood's loan.

Mr. Newton stated that there is no liability on the Town's part. Mr. Newton discussed Driftwood not being incorporated and that they must have a town/city or county sponsor them. Mr. Newton stated that they are

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not going to apply for an OCRA grant using the Town because the Town would then be eliminated from applying for one for five years.

Discussion was held regarding Driftwood not asking the town for money, but to obtain a loan and if the town would be a co-signer or hold any liability.

Mr. Newton confirmed that the Town would not be a cosigner and would not be liable for the loan that the liability would be on Driftwood Utilities.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there is a lot of paperwork with bonds and asked if she will be responsible for keeping track of the paperwork for Driftwood's bond. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked if the money would come to the Town and if we would be responsible for processing the checks and payments.

Mr. Newton confirmed.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this adds work to the Town and all the funds will come to the Town to be kept in Town accounts to be administered out.

Mr. Newton stated that previously in Columbus they went through the Heritage Fund who handled all the money.

Discussion was held regarding that this bond would be written to Driftwood Utilities.

Attorney Huddleston stated that if the Council is comfortable with it, Mr. Newton can submit the proposed application and Attorney Huddleston can look at the application to provide feedback.

Councilwoman Buck stated that she would like that done before they commit to anything.

Mr. Newton discussed their December timeline.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if Driftwood Utilities will receive Bartholomew County's blessing on this.

Mr. Newton stated that they do not need Bartholomew County at all and that the intent is to build the infrastructure that is coming to Edinburgh so that they will be the Town's biggest customer.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if this is part of their accepted responsibility to gain them as a customer.

Mr. Newton stated that it is a working relationship and that he does not know if there is necessarily a responsibility. Mr. Newton discussed that the funding and rates must be approved by the IURC. Mr. Newton discussed that going through a normal bank would be faster, but rates are cheaper through the bond bank.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked if this would be like any other bond that the State Board of Accounts would have to audit on how the Town keeps records on it.

Attorney Huddleston stated that it would be a question for after the funds are received.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to review the proposed application with Indiana Bond Bank. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Denise Parsley, 909 Independence Dr, distributed photos and discussed the invasive plants that are coming up to their back doors. Ms. Parsley stated that the Town's ordinance states that it is unlawful for a

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lot owner to have weeds of a height of ten inches. Ms. Parsley discussed the pond that sits behind her house that has scum. Ms. Parsley stated that as well as it being an eyesore, she believes it is a health concern.

Town Manager John Myers stated that they had just ordered a new piece of equipment to handle that stuff and they had a different company come in to test the ponds. Mr. Myers stated that they believe this company will do a better job of treating the ponds and that it is in the works.

John Burton, 515 S Walnut St, asked if there is an ordinance that prevents him from starting a junkyard at his house, to park cars on the street and pull motors and park cars in his yard.

Town Manager John Myers confirmed that there is.

Mr. Burton discussed the cars blocking the sidewalk at his neighbor's house. Mr. Burton stated that from one end of Walnut Street to the other end, there are 51 parked cars with expired plates or no plates at all. Mr. Burton stated that every morning he gets up and picks up trash people leave. Mr. Burton stated that some cars have been sitting in the same spot for at least a year.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated that they will start tagging cars.

Council President Ryan Piercefield discussed that this issue is not just on Walnut Street. President Piercefield asked if Chief Little and Planning Director Julie Young could move on that. President Piercefield asked the departments to pay attention when plowing snow in the winters if they are plowing around the same cars every year.

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

_____
Ryan Piercefield, President

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Miriam Rooks, Vice President

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Debbie Buck

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Sherri Sweet

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Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

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Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer

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