

Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

Members answering roll call: Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks and Council President Ryan Piercefield. Councilman Michael Bryant was absent. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Rhonda Barrett, Town Manager Kevin McGinnis, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

Minutes – Executive meeting minutes of February 26, 2024, and Council meeting minutes of February 26, 2024.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve February 26, 2024, Executive meeting minutes and February 26, 2024, Council meeting minutes. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Claims – Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett said the council received a copy of the claim docket in their council packet and there was an additional claim added today in the amount of \$880 changing the amount of the docket to \$ 268,072.26.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve claim docket. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-3 Amending Subdivision Control Ordinance (2nd Reading) – Julie Young, Planning Director, said this is the second reading and it is a replacement and amendment of the Subdivision Control Ordinance and that the Planning Commission provided favorable recommendation. Julie asked if anyone had any questions. There being no questions, President Piercefield asked for a motion.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-3 Amending Subdivision Control Ordinance. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-4 Vacating a Portion of Union Street (1st Reading) – Attorney Dustin Huddleston said the Town had filed a petition to Vacate a portion of Union Street near the Water Treatment Plant. He said this is the 1st reading of the Ordinance that can be waived if there is a unanimous consent to approve it or it can be brought back for a 2nd reading. Attorney Huddleston stated that he had prepared a deed for vacating the property and explained that when vacating an alley, it provides one half of the property to each adjoining property owner. He said the deed has been prepared with the property owner to the north to consider conveying all the property to the town. He said the property owner has not officially gotten back with him. He said the Water Superintendent wanted the property vacated, whether we get half or all the property.

Councilwoman Buck asked if we should waive it or wait.

Attorney Huddleston stated he saw no reason to wait as the petition to vacate has been filed and approved by the council and achieves what was filed for whether they acquired all or half of the property, but the council can wait if that is what they want to do.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to waive 1st reading of Ordinance 2024-4 Vacating a Portion of Union Street. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-4 Vacating a Portion of Union Street. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Attorney Huddleston said he would proceed to record Ordinance 2024-4.

Ordinance 2024-5 Establishing Electric Developer Agreement (1st Reading) – Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said previously Town Manager Kevin McGinnis had brought this to the board that when developing subdivisions, the town would pass along cost to developers. He said this is commonly done by Johnson County REMC and others. He said this is an Ordinance approving the agreement and attached is exhibit A to be used for future development.

Council President Piercefield asked if this had to go to a 2nd reading or if it could be waived.

Attorney Huddleston said the 1st reading could be waived if it was unanimous approval.

Attorney Huddleston asked Electric Superintendent Steve Clark if this agreement was okay with him. Superintendent Clark said this would provide what is needed for future developments.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to waive 1st reading of Ordinance 2024-5 Establishing Electric Developer Agreement. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-5 Establishing Electric Developer Agreement. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.

Contract Employing Attorney – Council President Piercefield presented the contract to employ Dustin Huddleston as Town Attorney; he said that per Attorney Huddleston there is no change in price. He asked for a motion to retain Attorney Huddleston.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to retain Dustin Huddleston as the Contract Employed Attorney. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Wessler Invoice 43710 for Water Treatment Plant – Rhonda Barrett Clerk Treasurer said the council should have received in their packet a copy of Invoice 43710 from Wessler for engineering services provided on the Water Treatment Plant.

Attorney Huddleston asked Water Superintendent Bill Jones if this invoice was going through the normal process.

Superintendent Jones said that he had reviewed it.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice 43710 for the Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion for President Piercefield to sign Wessler Invoice 43710. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Rooney & Co. Medicaid Cost Report Engagement Letter – Clerk Treasurer Rhonda Barrett said in 2013 Lisa Rooney of Rooney & Co reached out to the town on a program called the Indiana Medicaid Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program and that in the past the program was only offered to hospitals with ambulance services. She said that Rooney & Company has worked with the town to file for this supplemental payment for several years and charges a 25% contingency fee.

Councilwoman Rooks said this is an annual agreement.

Councilwoman Sweet asked why nothing had been received since 2020.

Clerk Treasurer Barrett said that in the past it typically takes a couple of years to receive the funds that the 2020 funds were not received until 2023, and the 2019 funds were not received until 2021.

President Piercefield said that he would talk with Fire Chief Lollar on the delay.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Rooney & Co Medicaid Cost Report Engagement Letter. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

MS4 Annual Report – Town Manager Kevin McGinnis said this is the annual report that is typical for what we do. He said the report was prepared by Wessler for 2023 and the report needs approval from the Council and approval for President Piercefield to sign.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve MS4 Annual Report. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion for President Piercefield to sign MS4 Annual Report. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Sewer Repair on St Rd 252 - Town Manager McGinnis said this is for informational purposes only, that no action needs to be taken tonight. He said that there are sewer conditions that need to be addressed along 252 where INdot is going to be working, that will need to be taken care of before the INdot project starts. He said that INdot will be sending out for bids in September 2024.

Town Manager McGinnis said that there was a meeting today with Baker Tilly and Wessler to discuss a plan to try to expedite this as quickly as possible. He said that there are 3 sections that we need to do,

Sections 1 & 2 need done before the INdot September 1, 2024, bid process and Section 3 can be done at a later date. He said there will need to be a bid process to do this work and that he will have more information later for the Council.

Casey-Bertram Construction Change Order – Town Manager Kevin McGinnis said per the agreement, Casey-Bertram was going to use a company to check the 115 E Main Cross building for asbestos, he said that the company did find asbestos on the exterior of the building in the alleyway. He said that since this has been found they need authorization from him and for him to sign the change order. He said the change order amount is within his approval limit but wanted to make the council aware of the change order. Town Manager McGinnis also said that this week Parks Director Daniel Teter, Community Center Director Sarabeth Drybread and himself had a meeting with Indiana Landmarks who is interested in purchasing the building at 115 E Main Cross. He said that Indiana Landmarks is going to contact the owner to see if they can purchase the building. Town Manager McGinnis said he informed Indiana Landmarks that the Town already has a signed agreement with Casey-Bertram for demolition of the building and that any agreements between Indiana Landmarks and the property owner would need to be taken care of as soon as possible. He said that it would be desirable if Indiana Landmarks did purchase the building and took care of the repairs and that he would need to check with them daily to see if they had made any progress on a purchase agreement.

Town Manager McGinnis said that he is going to hold off on signing the change order from Casey Bertram for a little while until he hears back from Indiana Landmarks.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if he gave Indiana Landmarks a specific time frame.

Town Manager McGinnis said that he told Indiana Landmarks that he needs to know in 1 – 2 weeks.

Councilwoman Buck asked if Sarabeth was working with Indiana Landmarks. Town Manager McGinnis said yes.

Council President Piercefield expressed concern about being under contract with Casey Bertram.

Town Manager McGinnis said this is an FYI to keep the council aware of what is going on with the building at 115 E Main Cross.

Councilwoman Buck said we should give Indiana Landmarks a deadline.

Graves Certificate of Substantial Completion – Town Manager Kevin McGinnis said that along with the Substantial Completion form, is a punch list of items that Wessler noted that needs to be addressed. He said the items on the list are highlighted as to what has been taken care of and what is yet to be done. He said that once all the items have been taken care of then he will have the building inspector to inspect and give a certificate of occupancy. He said that tonight, for the Certificate of Substantial Completion, he needs a signature agreeing that substantial completion per Wessler, has taken place.

Councilwoman Rooks asked Water Superintendent Bill Jones if he had seen the list and what his thoughts were.

Superintendent Jones said that he had seen the list and the substantial is complete per Wessler's wants and that they are still working on final completion which should be later in March. He said that all wells are back online.

Town Manager McGinnis said that this is a Substantial Completion, not the Final Completion.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Graves Certificate of Substantial Completion. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ryan to sign Graves Certificate of Substantial Completion. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Councilwoman Rooks asked Parks Superintendent Daniel Teter if there were any plans for revitalization of Irwin Park. She said that someone had told her there was graffiti of some sort on the Playground at Irwin Park. She said that she had not seen it herself, just following up on what someone had told her. She said that the park doesn't look very inviting, like it needs some work.

Parks Superintendent Teter, said that we are due for an overhaul.

Councilwoman Rooks said that from what she had been told people had put that in the comp plan survey.

Parks Superintendent Teter said that he had some rough numbers on what it would take to replace that playground equipment, and he is looking for funding as it would be six figures to replace. He said that there are some grant opportunities that he needs to narrow down to bring that to the board for guidance. Councilwoman Rooks said that it is not just the playground, but the shelter house looks like things have not been taken care of.

Parks Superintendent Teter said the big shelter had some work recently with a new roof a couple of years ago.

Councilwoman Rooks asked about a fresh coat of paint and just spruced up a little bit as well as the playground equipment. She asked if he and Sarabeth had everything ready for the eclipse if they are still having weekly meetings about it?

Parks Superintendent Teter said that they had a good game plan for downtown. He said they were working on some overflow areas for parking situations, Irwin Park available for overflow purposes, Sports Complex parking for overflow. Downtown there will only be one block closed off near the library for events. The Catholic Church parking lot will be open for parking, the school has been back and forth on parking, they opened it up for any groups or sports teams as a fundraiser opportunity, Facemire Farms will have a field open for parking. The plans for downtown include a wood carver, an art exhibit in the Community Center with Dam art to memorialize the Dam, vendors, food trucks, portable restrooms and extra trash receptacles.

Councilwoman Buck asked if the restroom at Irwin Park would be available?

Parks Superintendent Teter said that Irwin Park only has portable restrooms. He said if there is a lot of traffic coming in, the Sports Complex may open to sell concessions and have restroom facilities available.

Councilwoman Rooks said we should be way over ready rather than not.

Parks Superintendent Teter said that Town Manager Kevin McGinnis has been good at working with all the departments about not having any big projects for that day to be able to help with other departments for anything that might need extra hands that day.

President Piercefield said not to provoke fear, but there is a major concern on how police and fire will respond to emergencies that day, he said that he knows that Chief Little and Chief Lollar have plans with the county.

Chief Little said that the biggest concern is communications, and they are trying to come up with back up plans, he said that the county is splitting up the radio traffic into quadrants. Chief Little said that he thinks we will be okay. He said that his biggest concern is that everything is going south and east which is where we are. He said he will have somebody on 31 only purpose is to go South and North in the median. He said that the mall only has 2 security guards for that day. The police department has golf carts, and are going to bring personal RVs to the Police Department just in case they can't get anywhere. They will cover emergency calls but will not be doing any nonemergency calls on Sunday & Monday and will be responding to those calls on Tuesday.

President Piercefield said that Chief Lollar plans to have two ALS paramedic ambulances on duty that weekend, staff 3 for fire engines, 2 squads with Chief Lollar and Assistant Chief Ridpath both on duty that weekend. He said that Chief Lollar plans to have staff spread out between both stations and use RVs if needed for staff.

Chief Little said their backup plan is to use golf carts for transportation to get around if needed. He said that the detach quadrant for communications will be in Amity to Edinburgh with a ham radio operator in each quadrant. He said that there are concerns as the radio repeater at Amity only goes ½ mile, but they should still have communications with computers. He said that the State police assures we will not need to go on the interstate that day.

Clerk Treasurer Rhonda Barrett wanted to update the Council on the open position left when she was appointed as Clerk Treasurer had been filled by Gretchen Bryant from the Utility Office, and that she had just hired someone to fill the open position in the Utility Office and they will be starting work on April 1, 2024.

Town Manager Kevin McGinnis said that the Main Street force main project should be starting in about a week, Superintendent Clark McCollum is moving along with CCMG project, legal ads for rental of fire station 1 have been published, Attorney Huddleston is reviewing the policy for selling of unused equipment, and he provided a picture of 115 E Main Cross from 2013 compared to now.

Departmental Comments

Police Chief Doyne Little said they are still having a lot of problems with vehicles. He said that a brand new 2023 Durango had a motor go bad as well as a 2021 Durango with same problem of the motor cooler. He said it is covered under warranty, but having issues getting into a shop for repair, they towed the vehicles to Corydon Indiana for repairs. He said they got them back and were still having issues, the repair work was not good. He said that Dodge knows about issues and has no recalls yet, but it is covered by warranty. He said that he plans to buy two separate vehicles next year to see what works best.

Electric Superintendent Steve Clark said he had a Comcast meeting last week. He said that we are going to be sending out for public bid to contract pole replacement, rework existing poles, and clearance issues. He said that Comcast has verbally agreed to pay for it all and that Attorney Huddleston has drafted a contract that Comcast is reviewing. He said that we are not going to proceed with any work until we have the signed contract. He said that Comcast has a goal to get through the Town and have service established by end of year. He said that with the short timeline is why we are going to bid as there is not enough time to do all the work in house as it is currently up to 90 plus poles. He said that the 252 project river crossing is going to public bid and will be along the same timelines.

President Piercefield asked Superintendent Clark about the bids for the Digger Derrick Truck.

Superintendent Clark said they got 2 bids back, one of the bids had a 5-6-year lead time, the other has a 1 ½ -2-year lead time but is about \$16000 -\$18000 more. He said that both have disclaimers on the bid that says price is subject to time and delivery. He said that current vehicles are a 1986 and a 2006 that is approaching the 20-year mark.

President Piercefield said that Fire Chief Lollar and he have had discussions about replacing the 1995 fire engine. He said that Chief Lollar is going to reach out to some of the bigger cities that might have used engines to replace the 1995. He said that he is going to work with Justin to find a good used engine.

Parks Superintendent Teter said they are finalizing signups for baseball and softball, youth club registration for in town is going on, they are starting interviews for part time help but struggling to get enough applicants. He said that they are using the new point of sale software and like it and the web-based portion of it should be able to go live soon and be available for online rentals. He said that the next set of banners will display high school seniors and they are working on sponsorship of the banners. He said that the Senior banners should be going up in the next few weeks, then after that they will do the veteran banners again. He said that information has been put out on spring cleanup in cemetery and that grave blankets will come off this week and will be stored.

President Piercefield asked Superintendent Teter about the scholarship that had been started a few years ago for High School Seniors employed by the Town if that could be an option to attract employees.

Parks Superintendent Teter said they did it for one year but it did not attract any new employees, that any seniors who worked were returning employees.

Councilwoman Buck asked how the scholarship was promoted.

Parks Superintendent Teter said the first year he and the Town Manager went to the school and had a meeting at lunch time with seniors as it was a scholarship just for seniors. He said that seniors that worked for the park got the scholarship, but they were rehires and not any new hires. He said he was willing to do it again, that they only tried it the one year.

President Piercefield said to try lucrative ways like scholarships to get employees.

Councilwoman Buck suggested working with juniors also.

Planning Director Julie Young just a reminder that the comprehensive plan survey is live and there have been 320 responses as of Friday.

Public Comments

Sherrri Tatlock 514 High School Drive – Town Manager McGinnis said he will call her tomorrow before 11:00 am.

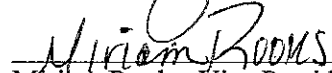
Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Meeting adjourned.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL



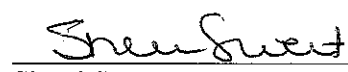
Ryan Piercefild, President




Miriam Rooks, Vice-President



Debbie Buck



Sherri Sweet



Michael Bryant

ATTEST:


Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer