

**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, March 10, 2025**  
**6:00PM**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

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

**Members Answering Roll Call:** Council President Ryan Piercefield, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

Councilwoman Debbie Buck was absent.

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

**Minutes-** Minutes of February 24, 2025, Council Meeting

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the February 24, 2025, Council meeting minutes. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

**Claims-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented one claim docket in the amount of \$485,180.09.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the claim docket as presented in the amount of \$485,180.09. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

**Wessler Invoice 46451 for Water Treatment Plant-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Wessler Invoice 46451 in the amount of \$4,191.25. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated this is for work on the water treatment plant. The invoice needs approval and approval for Council President Piercefield to sign.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice 46451 for Water Treatment Plan in the amount of \$4,191.25. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Wessler Invoice 46451 for Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

**HWC Engineering Agreement for Services-** Town Manager John Myers stated this contract is for the Unified Development Ordinance and zoning maps. Attorney Huddleston has reviewed and approved the contract. The contract is ready for council approval and approval for signature by Council President Piercefield.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the HWC Engineering Agreement for Services. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President to sign off on the HWC Engineering Agreement for Services. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

**Baker Tilly BT+ TIF+ Financial Management Services-** Scott Finley and Eric Walsh with Baker Tilly were present to give a presentation. Mr. Finley stated that he had met with Clerk-Treasurer Barrett and Town Manager John Myers around a month ago to discuss the BT+ TIF+ service line and how it allows Baker Tilly to provide better service while giving the Town a better sense of what they are going to be paying over the annual contract, making it easier to split those fees. Mr. Finley stated that this came about during budget time when Town Manager Myers and Clerk-Treasurer Barrett expressed interest in a long-term financial planning document that Baker Tilly could provide to help the Town better anticipate where they will be in 3-5 years financially. Mr. Finley stated that the need for the plan stems from management interest and with the current proposed SB1 property tax reform bill there could be additional property tax and other revenue losses. These financial management services could aid the Town in planning for those losses of revenues.

Mr. Walsh stated many medium to smaller sized communities need more assistance and have more economic restraint compared to the larger cities and towns. Mr. Walsh stated the BT+ TIF+ is a pricing package that gives a blended rate to communities. The pricing plan allows Baker Tilly to plan for the entire year staffing at levels that are more affordable for both Baker Tilly and the community. The Town would have the same project team throughout the 12 months, allowing Baker Tilly to

provide multiple services at a cost point that is cheaper. The proposal includes an additional service for Financial Planning which is new to the town and is a costly service. Mr. Walsh stated that the Financial Plan is based on transparency, predictability, and the financial planning piece for budgets and capital planning needs.

Mr. Walsh presented a service and cost breakdown for each service provided in the proposal and stated that the Financial Planning piece is new and is similar to what the Town currently does for the Utilities. The plan is a multi-year outlook in managing tax revenues. Discussion was held regarding the underspending of budgets and zero-based budgeting which justifies every single line item. Mr. Walsh stated that the Financial Plan provides guidance on capital needs and wants, staffing and wages, and sustainability over the next few years.

Historically the cost of services provided by Baker Tilly has been approximately \$52,000 annually. The proposed cost for services is a fixed fee of \$7,200 monthly/\$86,400 annually for a fixed block of hours. The primary increase is for the Financial Plan. Currently the Town is being billed at a time and expense rate.

Mr. Walsh stated the rate for a Baker Tilly manager to work with the town is \$325/hour, a senior accountant is \$250/hour, and a partner/principal is \$500/hr. If a block of hours is purchased, the Town would get a blended rate of approximately \$270/hour. Mr. Walsh stated that the components of the quote are customizable, if the Town wants to have a smaller block of hours, or if they do not want to receive a semi-annual report, those can be changed. Mr. Walsh strongly encouraged the Financial Planning piece due to the current tax reforms being considered.

Discussion was held regarding whether any of Baker Tilly's current clients go over the recommended number of hours. Mr. Walsh stated that if the Town does not use all the hours paid for, the Town will get that money back either by credit on the December bill or start next year off with credit on the January invoice.

Council President Piercefield stated he thinks it would be best to wait to decide until Councilwoman Debbie Buck is present.

Mr. Walsh stated that if the council needs another month to make the decision, they can hold off on billing for the current services being received and bill it at the lower rate once the decision is made.

Council President stated that this would need to be revisited when there is a full council present.

**Green Power Discussion-** Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated IMPA representatives gave a presentation over green power at the previous Council meeting. Superintendent Clark recommended the Town follow with what other communities are doing by adding \$.0001 adder in addition to the other applicable charges to the green power rate.

Council President Piercefield asked if Attorney Huddleston had reviewed the Green Power Program. Attorney Huddleston confirmed that he had reviewed the documents and the sample ordinances provided by Superintendent Clark.

Discussion was held regarding whether only customers interested in the Green Power Program would have an electric rate change.

Council President Piercefield stated that he wanted it to be clear that this is not raising rates for all customers and that we need to educate the community on what it is. Superintendent Clark stated that IMPA had provided a sample flier that another community had sent out that could be used for education.

Superintendent Clark confirmed that only people interested in partaking in the program would have an electric rate change.

Councilwoman Rooks asked about what the next step would be. Attorney Huddleston stated that to move to the next step, the council would need to authorize him to draft an ordinance for the program.

Discussion was held regarding whether the program is restricted to only industrial customers or if any residential customers had expressed interest in the program. Superintendent Clark stated that it is not restricted to only industrial customers, anyone that wants to participate in the program is able to, currently it has only been industrial customers that have expressed interest in the program.

Discussion was held regarding what and when education and advertisements should be posted.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Attorney Huddleston to draft an ordinance for the Green Power Program. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

**Transformer Repairs-** Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated he currently has two transformers that have been taken out of service due to them leaking. Superintendent Clark requested to have these two transformers sent in to get reconditioned to have on hand as spares. Superintendent Clark has quotes for the repairs of a 750 transformer and a smaller transformer.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if Superintendent Clark had money in his budget for this. Superintendent Clark confirmed that he does.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the transformer repairs of the 750-kilowatt transformer in the amount of \$10,523 and the 150-kilowatt transformer in the amount of \$6,954. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

**Sludge Pump Replacement Quotes-** Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie stated there is a 62-year-old sludge pump at the wastewater plant that works as a backup system to the belt filter press. This pump helps pump liquid solids to a tanker to then get hauled out of the plant. Superintendent Jessie stated that the sludge pump has not been in operation for 20 years and needs to be replaced. He has three quotes and recommends going with the lowest quote from BBC Pump and Equipment.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Sludge Pump Replacement from BBC Pump and Equipment Company in the amount of \$24,886.00. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

**Wastewater Equipment Removal-** Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie stated that in the Bio-solids building, the solids' handling facility is down and no longer working, the belt filter press is broken down that has been in service for 24 years.

Superintendent Jessie presented pictures of a greatly deteriorated piece of machinery that he wants to have removed which transfers solids from one room to the next and has not been used for the past 7 years for its original purpose.

Superintendent Jessie stated he previously had gotten quotes to have a company come in and remove the machine and it was going to be over \$30,000. Superintendent Jessie stated he would like to have this machine removed in-house. If the machine is not removed, it could possibly shut the belt filter press down again in the future.

Discussion was held regarding the size of the equipment and staffing capabilities for removal of the equipment.

Town Manager Myers stated that the machine serves no purpose other than conveyance and when the machine is on it uses a lot of electricity. Superintendent Jessie stated that removal of the machine would cut the cost of the electric bill for that building.

The Council agreed it was okay to scrap the machine.

### **Other Business**

Councilwoman Sweet thanked Parks Director Daniel Teter, Town Manager John Myers, and the police department for their response to the bomb threat at Eastside Elementary School last week.

Councilwoman Rooks commended the police department for their response to the bomb threat at Eastside Elementary School last week.

Council President Piercefield stated everyone pulled together extremely well during the bomb threat at Eastside Elementary School last week.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated the Town may need to investigate different financing options for repairs at the wastewater plant as there are a lot of outdated items there. Discussion was held regarding planning for upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett encouraged the council to adopt the proposed comprehensive financial plan for tax funded departments with Baker Tilly like what we currently do for the utilities. With proposed tax cuts in the SB-1 and the proposed growth to the north of town it would be beneficial to have a plan for spending over the next 3-5 years, to plan for possible new infrastructure, and possible expansion of public safety departments and buildings.

Town Manager John Myers stated the police and fire departments worked well with the school handling the bomb threat at Eastside Elementary School last week.

Police Deputy Chief Shawn Kelsay thanked all the surrounding police departments and the community for their support and help on Friday at Eastside.

Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated they have taken down the Journeyman job posting due to a lack of experienced applicants. Discussion was held regarding the next steps.

Cemetery Superintendent Stan Brown stated they are preparing for spring and hope to soon get finished with the American Legion for the Wreaths Across America.

Council President Piercefield stated the Cemetery has a 20-year-old John Deere Gator utility vehicle that needs replaced. Superintendent Brown stated he already has some quotes from John Deere on two different types of Gator utility vehicles. Discussion was held concerning the Badger Fund.

Town Manager John Myers stated the Cemetery also has a 1998 Chevrolet truck that eventually needs replaced. Superintendent Brown stated this truck is in bad disrepair.

Planning Director Julie Young thanked the Council for approving the HWC Engineering agreement. Director Young stated that she is in the process of forming the Steering Committee if any of the Council members are available to join.

Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread stated the second-place winner of the Johnson County Launch pitch competition was Abby Sweet-Slater. Director Drybread stated that the Johnson County Community Foundation had their strategic plan meeting today on what the foundation can do to help across the county, and one of the groups advocated for big investment projects in Edinburgh. Director Drybread stated they will also be working with the Columbus Chamber for business classes for local businesses. Director Drybread stated that there is an upcoming input session for the IU Rural Grant the Town received.

**Public Comments**

Cathy Hamm, 513 Lincoln Street, thanked the community for all their help during the bomb threat at Eastside Elementary School last week.

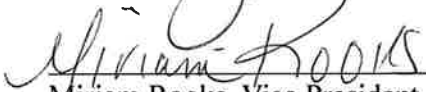
**Adjourn**

*Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*


*These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Edinburgh Council meetings. 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

  
Sherri Sweet

  
Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

  
Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer