

Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2016
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

President Kami Ervin called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members answering roll call were: Councilman Jack Shepherd, Vice President Jeff Simpson, Councilwoman Dawn Graham, Councilman Jerry Lollar and President Kami Ervin. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston and Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley.

President Ervin said next on the agenda were the minutes of the executive meeting of March 7, 2016 and the council meeting of March 7, 2016. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.

President Ervin said next on the agenda were claims and handed it over to Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley.

Mr. Finley said everyone should have received a copy of the regular claim docket as well as an end-of-month docket for January. The total for the end-of-month docket was \$789,579.46 and the total for the regular docket was \$760,432.74. He said he had signed off on all the claims in those dockets and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

President Ervin said next on the agenda was the vacating an alley request. The public hearing with reference number TCV-2016-01 was held at the previous meeting and the issue was tabled for further investigation. She wanted to remind the council that the staff report presented by Town Manager Wade Watson recommended denial of the request.

Councilman Simpson said he would be in favor of vacating the alley. The alley is an eyesore and having a business maintain it would be beneficial to the town.

Councilman Shepherd said he would be against vacating the alley for the reasons listed in the staff report. He agrees that it is an awful looking alley but maybe the town should look into making it look better. He said the alley also touches another building and in the event that something went into that building they would not have access to the door that faces the alley.

Councilwoman Graham asked if anything was found about the utilities in that alley.

Town Attorney Huddleston said if the town approves the vacation they would want to make it contingent upon the property owner signing a utility easement because the town does have powerlines in the alley that would need serviced.

Councilman Lollar said he would also be in favor of vacating the alley. It could make the downtown area look better and the town should try to help its business owners. He asked if it would be possible to vacate the alley for a two year trial basis and revisit it at that point. That would give the town an option to take the alley back over if the business did not live up to the agreement.

Mr. Huddleston said he can look into that but he believes once an alley is vacated the town has no control over the alley.

President Ervin said she liked that idea because she has an issue with vacating an alley in the downtown historic district.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to table the discussion until the March 28, 2016 council meeting and to allow Mr. Huddleston to research the alley vacating options discussed. Councilman Lollar seconded. Motion carried.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Graham said she wanted to thank Fire Chief Allen Smith for fixing the historic district sign in front of her house on Walnut Street.

Councilman Lollar said he had some citizens come to him and ask what the status was on the unfinished duplexes on Brown Street just east of Franklin Street.

Mr. Watson said all three of those dwellings are on one parcel. It was done by a single individual and they are in various stages of completion. The investor opted not to spend any more money on project after the housing market declined. He would like to sell the property as-is which would require a substantial down payment because it is an investment property.

Departmental Comments

Town Manager Wade Watson said he had four things to present to council for consideration. The first was a recommendation from the staff members that have been reviewing the personnel policy regarding compensatory time (comp time) and overtime. He said the recommendation is to draft a resolution to amend the policy allowing the town to offer either comp time or overtime to nonexempt employees.

Councilman Lollar asked why the comp time would accumulate at one and a half times the overtime hours worked.

Mr. Watson said that is part of federal regulations. Anytime a nonexempt employee works more than 40 hours, that employee must be compensated at one and a half times the rate of normal pay. Comp time would accumulate the same way overtime dollars would accumulate.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to authorize Mr. Huddleston to review what has been written for legality and draft a resolution to add to our policy. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson handed out some pictures for the council to review. The pictures were of the building at 108 South Holland Street across from the utility office and next to the senior center/food pantry. The building is structurally unsound and a couple of weeks ago the south wall crumbled. The property owner had an engineer look at the building to decide what to do about the problem. If the building comes down, there is the potential that the food pantry would be damaged or also collapse. He said his recommendation is to authorize Mike Buening to look at the buildings to look into the options for saving the building and also initiate action to temporarily move the food pantry before the adjacent building is demolished.

Councilman Lollar made a motion to authorize Mike Buening to review the discussed situation involving the food pantry and to relocate the food pantry. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson said the next issue comes from a citizen complaint on Roosevelt Avenue. The town has at some point in its history posted signs prohibiting large trucks on certain streets. However, these are not enforceable by law because they are not part of the town code. Those roads are too narrow for a tractor and trailer and in the last month there was damage to a residential property on South Holland. Councilman Shepherd made a motion to authorize Mr. Huddleston to revise and add Roosevelt, north and south of County Line Road, and Holland, south of County Line Road, to the list of roads where trucks are prohibited. Councilman Lollar seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson said the last thing is for information only. The water department furnace has gone bad for the second time in the plants history. The cost to repair the furnace is just under \$4,000 and the water furnace costs about \$300 per month to operate. Instead, the department has received quotes to replace it with an electric furnace or gas furnace. The lowest price for replacement was about \$6,500.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said the basketball program has ended and the awards banquet was held. He said he had also done about 60 interviews for part time summer help over the last week.

Baseball and Softball will be starting soon and the first softball tournament will be held this weekend, weather permitting.

Public Comments

Chris Pierce and Richard Leslie were present on behalf of Rumpke. Mr. Pierce said some studies have been done on the efficiency of the solid waste removal service that Rumpke provides for the town. It was found that Rumpke could operate more efficiently in the town if they were allowed to pick up on Wednesday only instead of Tuesday and Wednesday. He said they would also like to be able to offer a recycling option to the residents. That pick-up service would also be on Wednesday.

Councilwoman Ervin asked Mr. Pierce to prepare a recycling service estimate.

Mr. Watson said the only concern he had was how it would be communicated to the citizens.

Mr. Leslie said Rumpke could contact the citizens that would be effected and also they would run on both Tuesday and Wednesday for the first few weeks until the residents were accustomed to the change.


Councilman Lollar asked if Rumpke could present this information in writing before the next council meeting.

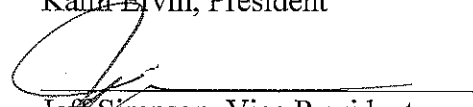
Mr. Pierce said he would get that information to Mr. Watson before the next meeting.

Duane Terry, owner of Cliffs Bar and Grill, presented the council with a list of names of people in favor of vacating the alley next to their bar. He read another letter which touched on the issues that were brought up in the staff report and during the previous meeting.

Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.

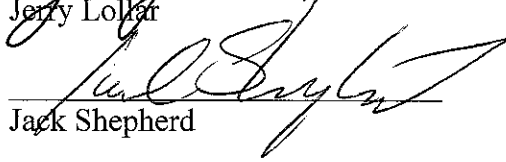
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Kami Ervin, President

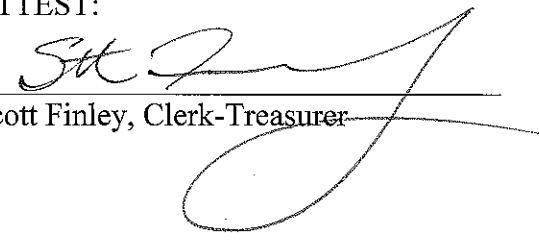

Jeff Simpson, Vice President


Dawn M. Graham


Jerry D. Lollar


Jack Shepherd

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer