

**Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
6:00 P.M. Town Hall**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

Members answering roll call: *Due to the COVID-19 public emergency and per Executive Order 20-09, members may have attended electronically (e).* Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Vice President Dawn Graham, Councilman Ryan Piercefield (e), and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, and Town Manager JT Doane.

Minutes – Council meeting of May 11, 2020. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Claims – The council received two claim dockets in their council packets. The first was the end-of-month docket for March totaling \$309,995.55 and the second was the regular docket for the period totaling \$591,667.94. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on the claims in those dockets and handed them over to the council for approval.

Councilman Piercefield asked about the Brehob Nursery claim for edging. He said that seems like a lot for edging.

Parks Director Daniel Teter (e) said that is what the department is using to edge the sidewalks at the Sports Complex after they put in the crushed ag lime for ADA compliance.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Ditech CF-1 – Building Commissioner Wade Watson said Ditech had two tax abatement CF-1's for approval. Ditech appears to be in substantial compliance with the exception of being negatively affected by the COVID-19 Public Emergency. The staff recommendation is for approval of both CF-1's for Ditech.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the Ditech CF-1's as submitted. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow President Simpson to sign the CF-1's on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson said the CF-1 for Amos Hill was submitted after council packets went out Friday. They too appear to be in substantial compliance with the original statement of benefits. The staff recommendation was for approval.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the CF-1 for Amos Hill. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow President Simpson to sign the CF-1 on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

COVID-19 – Mr. Doane said the previous COVID-19 extension expires today. He said the council needs to decide how to proceed with public offices. He said the staff has taken additional safety measures including sanitizer at all doors as well as an intercom system to limit unnecessary interactions.

President Simpson said he thinks we open the town hall and utility office with the added safety measures.

Councilwoman Rooks said she is in favor as well, but access could also change if there was another spike in cases.

Mr. Finley said he has had several requests for solicitor's permits.

President Simpson said he thinks we should wait a while longer on solicitor's permits. He said July 1st may be a good date.

President Simpson said he thinks the other departments should reopen on June 14th when the parks and recreation is scheduled to open.

Councilwoman Graham said she thinks the compactor should be open Friday's only until the June 14th date.

Mr. Doane asked if the council was ok with starting the men's league at Timbergate on June 10th. The dividers for the golf carts have been installed and the department is sanitizing carts in between rounds. The bar area will remain closed except for window service.

Councilwoman Rooks said as long as we keep up the sanitizing practices it should be ok.

Mr. Watson said there is a BZA meeting scheduled in June with two cases pending. He wanted guidance on how to proceed.

Mr. Huddleston said BZA meeting do not usually have a lot of people present but if there are a lot of people against the issue, it is possible to have a full house. To hold these meetings, they must be open to the public because it would be difficult for someone to oppose the issue via electronic means.

Mr. Watson said he does not believe that will be the case. He said he is comfortable holding the meeting and promoting social distancing.

President Simpson said he thinks we should hold the meeting with added safety precautions as it has already been pushed back.

Mr. Finley said his plan for the utility office will be to only allow one patron in the office at a time. Arrows will be put on the windows instructing patrons to wait outside until the office is clear. He said the office has sent out less disconnect notices in the last few months than normal.

Parks and Recreation/Community Center Programming – Mr. Teter (e) said the plan for reopening the department follows the Governor's directives. The council was given a sheet showing opening dates for the parks and recreation programs (appendix A).

Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread said they have not started taking money for the farmers' market yet to avoid issuing refunds if it needs to be postponed or cancelled.

The council was in agreement with the dates presented.

Resolution 2020-16 Coronavirus Relief Fund – Mr. Doane said there have been several funding mechanisms come up through the CARES Act. He has put together a committee comprised of himself, Fire Chief Mike Herron, Director of Administrative Services Mary Patterson, and Accounts Payable Clerk Rhonda Barrett. This resolution authorizes the town manager to submit reimbursement requests on behalf of the town. The resolution was prepared by Mr. Huddleston.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-16. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Riverfront Development District – Mr. Doane said there are several communities taking advantage of the Riverfront Development District as it is possible the statute could change drastically. This ordinance would only take effect if there was development in the area designated by the ordinance. Mr. Huddleston would draft the ordinance establishing the boundaries if the council wanted to establish this district.

Discussion was held regarding what areas this would encompass.

Mr. Huddleston said the requirement for this district is a body of flowing water. In the town's case it would be Blue River near the dam. The geographic boundaries are set to an extent by the town. Once the area is defined, the town can grant an unlimited amount of liquor licenses in that area. This allows the town to encourage development.

Discussion was held regarding the geographic boundaries and potential liabilities surrounding the dam.

Fire and EMS Turnout Gear – Mr. Doane said the council received information on turnout gear in the council packet. The cost for the gear for all employees that do not have Edinburgh gear is approximately \$58,000 plus \$345 for shipping. Adding shields for the helmets adds \$2,150 to the quote.

Mr. Finley said the town has budgeted \$200,000 from the Public Safety fund that could pay for this purchase.

Councilman Piercefield said firefighters need to have the right gear for the job. This is a necessity.

Councilwoman Rooks asked what the life expectancy of the gear was.

Fire Chief Mike Herron (e) said the standard is 10 years but they should last longer than that unless they are damaged somehow.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the purchase of turnout gear as presented. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2020-9 Historic Preservation – Mr. Doane said this is a draft ordinance for the council's review. There is a lack of uniformity in the town's historic districts. This draft was provided by Indiana Landmarks and would allow the town to establish a committee to review modifications to homes in those districts. SaraBeth Drybread and Wade Watson would be advisors to this committee.

Mr. Huddleston said he needs to confirm if this adds a layer to the zoning ordinance. If so, the zoning ordinance would also need to be amended.

Ms. Drybread said Indiana Landmarks would be happy to have a presentation to explain and answer questions.

Councilwoman Graham said she is not for this ordinance. She said she does not feel the town should control the way residences look.

Councilman Piercefield said it sounds similar to an HOA. It sets guidelines on how homes in a geographic area should look.

Mr. Doane said this would allow the town to enforce standard expectations for those historic districts.

Ms. Drybread said the town can exclude things from this ordinance that we feel should not be restricted or enforced.

Mr. Watson said there are a lot of reasons to not approve this type of ordinance but there are also some pros as well. This would allow the town to keep facades appropriate with the period and also makes sure renovations are period appropriate.

Councilman Piercefield said the cost to rebuild a historically accurate structure can be exponentially greater than it would normally cost.

Mr. Watson said this is true and he understands the concern, but the town already enforces this with other ordinances. If a mobile home burns down in an area not zoned for mobile homes, the owner would not be allowed to put another mobile home on that lot.

President Simpson said he thinks the council would benefit from hearing a presentation from Indiana Landmarks.

Ordinance 2020-10 Employee Leave Policy Revision – First Reading – Mr. Finley the police and fire work very different shifts than a standard employee. This ordinance establishes leave accruals for standard employees, fire employees, and police employees based on the shifts they work. He explained that this changes the wording so that fire and police are given a similar amount of days off as standard employees.

Discussion was held on fire and police work shifts.

Being a first reading, no action was taken.

Town Equipment – Mr. Doane said the town has some aging equipment. He has obtained quotes for replacement backhoes as well a mini excavator. He asked if the council would like to proceed with a formal presentation.

Councilwoman Graham said she believes we should hold off on these types of purchases until we see how the public health emergency plays out. Councilwoman Rooks agreed.

President Simpson asked that he prepare a spreadsheet on all town owned vehicles and any issues they have.

Edinburgh Recycling Depot – Mr. Doane said the recycling depot opened officially today. The hours are as follows:

- Tuesdays: 10am – 6pm
- Fridays: 8 am – 4pm
- Saturdays: 8 am – 2 pm

East Main Cross Lift Station – Mr. Doane explained that this lift station has been having issues. Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes received quotes for replacement.

Ms. Frakes said there was a pipework failure at the station. There is so much work that needs done, it makes more sense to rehab the whole lift station. She said she received four quotes. Two quotes were with new pumps and two were without new pumps. She recommended the Straeffer quote. The quote is slightly higher but include a much better SCADA system with a cellular system that would alert the crew to any issues via telephone.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the Straeffer quote for \$23,000. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Easement Agreement – Mr. Doane said this easement is regarding the same lift station just discussed. The two lots around this station have sold and this easement would allow necessary access to maintain the station.

Mr. Huddleston said there should have been an easement created when the lift station was built. This easement would be essentially correcting that error. The agreement says the town agrees to put temporary driveway in and then put a more permanent drive once a dwelling is built.

Councilman Piercefield said page 5 of 6 has President Simpson's name wrong.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion for preliminary approval of the agreement with the modification of President Simpson's name on page 5 and authorize Mr. Doane to obtain a survey for the easement. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Medical Office Lease – Mr. Huddleston said the lease was adjusted to accept and reject the terms per the council discussion at the last meeting. The attorney for the other party is still in the process of reviewing and it should be ready this week.

Other Business

Mr. Doane said he wanted to thank the cemetery staff for their work prior to Memorial Day. The cemetery parking lot is paved and will be striped after review from our ADA consultant.

Councilwoman Rooks said she had a visit at Dr. Corn's office, and she is thankful to have another dentist in town. She said she had some concerns with the landscaping around town but thanked Mr. Teter for the work that has been done. She asked who is deciding on the downtown hanging baskets and the areas under the baskets.

Mr. Teter said the department is looking to move the current plants and put something a little more substantial in the fall.

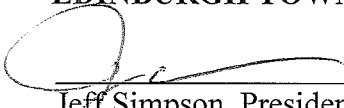
Mr. Finley gave an update on the additional appropriations process for the Fire Department. The amount will be approximately \$655,000. He said he should have more info to the council at the next couple of meetings.

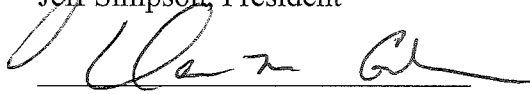
Ms. Drybread said voting will be held on June 2nd at the community center. She is working on safety procedures with the county clerk's office. She has started receiving grant applications for small businesses. They should know on June 9th who has been awarded those funds.

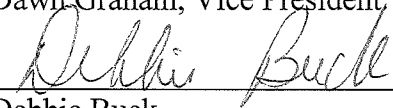
Water Superintendent Bill Jones said his backhoe is 23 years old and requires a lot of maintenance. He thinks we should trade it for a newer backhoe when town equipment is looked at.

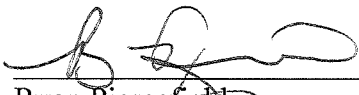
Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

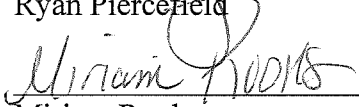
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Jeff Simpson, President



Dawn Graham, Vice President


Debbie Buck


Ryan Piercefield


Miriam Rooks


ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer

Appendix A


RE-OPENING PLAN

Subject to change based on CDC recommendations, Executive Orders, and local officials.



	Stage 2 May 4-23	Stage 3 May 24 - June 13	Stage 4 June 14- July 3	Stage 5 July 4 on
Aquatic Center	Closed			Open 7/4
Park&Rec Office	Closed		Open 6/15	
Community Center	Closed		Open 6/15	
Campgrounds	Closed	Open 6/1		
Rentals	Closed	Open 6/1 (groups of 100 or less)		
Fitness Classes	Closed			Open 7/4
Farmer's Market	Closed	Open 6/11		
Youth Club	Cancelled – Potential pop-up camps in late summer			
Softball/Baseball	Closed		Open 6/14	
Shelters	Closed	Open 6/1 (groups of 100 or less)		
Playgrounds, courts	Closed		Open 6/15	
Firecracker Fest	Cancelled – move fireworks to Fall Festival			

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