

Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2020
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, July 13, 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, and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, and Town Manager JT Doane.

Minutes – Council meeting minutes of June 22, 2020 and executive meeting of June 26, 2020. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Claims – The council received a copy of the claim docket in their council packets. The total for the claim docket was \$327,197.02. 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 why we paid a Brandon W. Smith.

Fire Chief Mike Herron said that was for the installation of a primer pump on tanker 42. Previously his company was Smithfield Services.

Councilman Piercefield asked about the services done to a 2009 Dodge Ram for \$2,300.

Mr. Finley said that was for the electric departments truck. He said he would pull the claim for Mr. Piercefield to review the work.

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

Resolution 2020-19 Coronavirus Relief Program Grant Fund – Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread said the town was awarded funding in May. OCRA has sent the prerelease of funds but the town must accept the application via resolution. The town should have release of funds in the next two weeks.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-19. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion approved.

Christian Church – Ms. Drybread presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Christian Church on the corner of Walnut and Perry Street. She gave a brief background of the building. The building has been vacant for about a decade. The current owners have offered to gift the building to the town. There has been some work done but there are a lot of issues that need to be fixed. She explained that if the town does not accept the building, there is a very good chance it will go back into the hands of someone who will neglect the property. She gave some examples of other communities that have revitalized old churches to hold other functions. The process would be to first fix the immediate needs, form a committee to oversee the church, hold public forums, seek grant funding, and start an investment campaign.

Joshua Biggs of Indiana Landmarks said Indiana Landmarks is around to help people understand why historic preservation matters and help save historic structures. This building is a community anchor and there are unlimited possibilities for the building.

Mark Dollase, Vice President of Indiana Landmarks, said he worked with the town a few years back on signage for the historic districts. The design on the Walnut Historic District sign was actually pulled from stained glass windows of this building.

Building Commissioner Wade Watson said he has been in contact with Paul Burton and he is extremely motivated to pass the ownership of this building on to the town or some other party.

Councilman Piercefield said he has concerns with the costs associated with the building and the town has other projects going on right now. He does not believe that this is right for the town currently. He does not think the town should be in the business of real estate.

Councilwoman Buck asked what she thought was the worst case for the town if we accept the building.

Ms. Drybread said she thinks the risk is worse if the town does not take the building.

Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said the structure would probably be given as-is. The risk would be the structural integrity of the building and the continual maintenance. He would recommend spending some money upfront for title work and an inspection. The cost for that would be a few thousand dollars.

Mr. Dollase said Indiana Landmarks does a lot of real estate acquisitions and he estimates the annual holding costs for the building to be between \$7,500 and \$10,000.

Councilwoman Graham said she is not ready to make a decision at this time.

President Simpson said we will table the discussion until the next meeting.

Ordinance 2020-13 Golf Carts (Second Reading) – Mr. Doane said this was discussed at the previous meeting and amended per council discussion.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-13. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2020-14 Fireworks (Second Reading) – Mr. Doane said similarly this ordinance has also been amended per discussion at the last meeting.

Mr. Huddleston said Councilwoman Graham pointed out that there is a state statute where fireworks cannot be restricted on certain days. This ordinance mirrors the state guidelines.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-14. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Huddleston said this ordinance will need to be advertised as it imposes fines and will not be effective until 30 days after advertising.

Ordinance 2020-15 Fire/EMS Department FLSA (First Reading) – Mr. Doane said he has been working on this with Chief Herron and Mr. Huddleston.

Mr. Finley said under the overtime portion he believes there is missing information. The section should state that firefighters that work over 212 hours in a 28-day cycle will earn overtime compensation.

Councilman Piercefield said he wanted to clarify that not all full-time employees in that department would be eligible for a Kelley Day, only those working 24-hour shifts.

Ordinance 2020-16 Speed Limits (First Reading) – Mr. Doane said this ordinance would amend the speed limits on Franklin and Clay Streets to 20 mph per the discussion at the previous council meeting.

Councilwoman Buck said she would like to see that speed limit be 25 mph.

Councilwoman Graham asked when the last traffic study was done. She feels like the council gets a complaint and automatically changes the speed limit.

Town Marshall Doyne Little said he had the officers run radar in that area and found 35 was about the average on Franklin Street.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said he and his employees work in the street a lot and 30 mph is fast when you are working on or near the street.

Being a first reading, no action was taken.

State Road 252 Engineering Contract – Mr. Doane before the council is an LPA consulting contract through INDOT. Crossroads Engineers has been selected to work on the engineering on this project.

Mr. Huddleston said if the town wants the funding for the project the council must approve the contract as-is.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the State Road 252 Engineering Contract with Crossroad Engineers. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to allow three councilmembers to sign the agreement on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

2020 Paving Driveway Approaches – Mr. Doane said paving work has been moving along. He has obtained budget pricing from Robertson for driveway approaches on Walnut Street. That pricing was \$170,000.

Mr. Finley said in his opinion we should not proceed with this project. We have already overspent for the 2020 paving season. Because the budget pricing is over \$150,000 the project would need to be put out to public bid.

Councilwoman Rooks asked why this was not included in the original quote.

Mr. Doane said the original scope of the project was just mill and overlay and the ADA accessible ramps.

Councilman Piercefield said he does not understand why this work was not anticipated in the scope of work.

Utility Trailer – Mr. Doane said included with the council packet were quotes for a utility trailer that could be used by multiple departments. The low quote was from Mayes Trailer Service for \$7,900.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said she did not obtain these quotes, but her department could benefit from the trailer. The trailer could be used when a full-size dump truck was too large or when a department did not have a CDL driver to drive a dump truck.

Councilwoman Rooks said she thinks we have plenty of equipment already and would like to hold off on the purchase.

Councilwoman Graham agreed and said she would like to hold off as well. We should not be making non-essential purchases when we are not sure what is going to happen with the revenues this year and next year.

Naomi Railroad Crossing – Mr. Doane said he received direction from the council to get specifics on closing the Naomi Railroad crossing. The railroad was willing to give the town \$7,500 to assist with closing the railroad.

Councilman Piercefield said he is against closing the crossing for that amount. The rest of the council agreed.

Cemetery Superintendent – Mr. Doane said Park Director Daniel Teter was put into interim status as cemetery superintendent earlier this year. He said he would like to remove the interim status and make him the permanent cemetery superintendent and increase his salary to \$69,800.

Councilwoman Graham asked if Stan Brown was preparing the department reports for the cemetery.

Mr. Doane said yes. The reports have been prepared by Mr. Brown and reviewed and approved by Mr. Teter.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to remove Daniel Teter's interim status as cemetery superintendent, increase his overall salary to \$69,800, and review the position on or about October 1st, 2020. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried 3 to 2 after a roll call vote with Councilwoman Buck and Councilwoman Rooks voting nay.

Ray's Heavy Trash Collection – Mr. Doane said this Wednesday will be the second heavy trash pick-up this year. Flyers have been sent out informing residents of what is and is not acceptable.

Mr. Watson said the staff will be tagging homes that have unacceptable items out.

President Simpson asked if they would pick-up the acceptable items if a home has unacceptable items out as well.

Mr. Watson said they would not ignore the entire pile if they had one unacceptable item. The biggest issues we have is building materials. The town took building materials in the past, but Ray's will not accept those items.

Historic Preservation Commission – Ordinance 2020-9 – Mr. Dollase of Indiana Landmarks gave a background of Indiana Landmarks. Indiana Landmarks has identified several areas of Edinburgh as historic districts. The preservation ordinance that has been presented to the council would put regulations in place for those historic districts. Any restorations, additions, or new construction in those districts would be subject to a design review by a committee. This would not change the planning or zoning or land use in these areas. He gave examples of what would be required to go to review before it could be implemented.

Councilman Piercefield asked if homeowners could opt out of this review.

Mr. Dollase said there will always be people that do not want to be a part of the historic district requirements. The town can still enforce the processes through the ordinance. He gave a few examples.

Councilman Piercefield asked if a historic building is destroyed or damaged, will insurance pay to have built back to its original state.

Mr. Dollase said generally, yes. The town would have the ability to assess a structure and determine if it were beyond repair as well.

Mr. Biggs of Indiana Landmarks said this ordinance does not make a homeowner bring their property up to historic standards automatically. This only applies if a building were to be rebuilt or remodeled.

Further discussion was held regarding the ordinance.

Being a first reading, no action was taken on the ordinance.

Medical Office Lease – Mr. Doane said the council received a copy of the lease with Edinburgh Chiropractic, LLC. Exhibit C regarding parking was purposely left vague in case other tenants went into the building.

Mr. Huddleston said there were a few changes by the tenant, one of which was wanting an additional room from what they are currently occupying. There is some exposed electrical wiring that would need to be fixed at the town's cost. They also asked that if the building were to go onto the tax roll and be assessed, they would only be charged the proportionate share of what they are occupying.

Councilman Piercefield said he thinks the tenants can work parking out on their own. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the lease. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Rooks asked if there was an update on the brown water issue.

Mr. Jones said the plant will be changing to a new chemical. The town has the highest manganese level in the state. With the new chemical and flushing in September, the issue should start to dissipate.

Councilman Piercefield asked who is on the safety committee that meets regularly.

Mr. Doane said it is composed of department heads, himself, Mary Patterson, and Charlie Vaught of Gregory and Appel.

Councilman Piercefield said he asked Chief Herron to investigate Station 42 to see if it is a viable option for a temporary fire house for the crew. The current situation is not great. The crew is using a tarp to contain the air conditioning and to keep out diesel smoke.

Councilman Piercefield asked if there has been any further discussion on the School Resource Officer.

Mr. Little said he has not been given any further direction. He will need to appoint someone when that time comes.

Mr. Huddleston said the school wanted to have a joint executive meeting. He said he was not comfortable with this meeting the requirements of an executive session. He communicated that he would be happy to meet in a public setting or with only the town manager and a representative of the council.

President Simpson said we have been trying to get a meeting with the school for over a month. He thinks the school board wants to control the town's employee that is appointed as the SRO.

Departmental Comments

Mr. Doane said the water tower on school hill has been repainted. The south tower is scheduled for next year. Kenna Consulting and Wessler are doing preliminary work on the stormwater project in the Prosser area. He asked if anyone knows any residents in that area, request a letter of support for that project.

Ms. Drybread said the Holland Street project is going well. She has been working on a wish list with the potential tenants. She hopes to have a presentation for the council next month.

Ms. Frakes said the lift station rehab on East Main Cross has been completed. The chemical trial for phosphorous removal is underway and is looking good so far.

Mr. Little said he has received some letters of support from citizens which is much appreciated. He has spoken with a citizen that would like to help buy body cams for all the officers.

Mr. Jones said he would like to look into a bulk water rate for when people get water from hydrants. He explained that O'Mara used 20,000 gallons in a single day on the US 31 project. He would like to put a water fill station in and charge a bulk rate for users.


Public Comments

Janice Burton of 504 Fulford Drive expressed her support for the historic preservation. She said she wishes there would have been more preservation in the past.

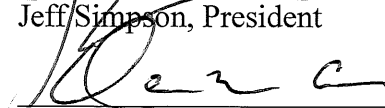
Debby Vaughan of 1127 Constitution Drive said if we do not do some sort of historic preservation, we will not draw more people to the town. She expressed the importance of historic preservation.

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

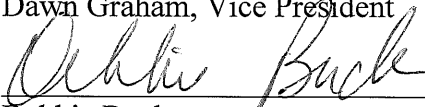
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL



Jeff Simpson, President



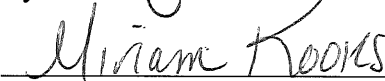
Dawn Graham, Vice President



Debbie Buck




Ryan Piercefield



Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:



Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer