

Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2020
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

Members answering roll call: Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Vice President Dawn Graham, Ryan Piercefield, and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, and Town Manager JT Doane.

Minutes – Executive meeting of August 24, 2020, council meeting of August 24, 2020, executive meeting of August 31, 2020, and special meeting of August 31, 2020. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Claims – The council received a copy of the claim docket in their council packets. The total for the docket was \$1,028,574.61. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on the claims in those dockets and handed them over to the council for approval.

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

Public Hearing for 2021 Budget – Mr. Finley said the notice to taxpayers (Form 3) was advertised online through Gateway. The adoption is set for the next council meeting on September 28, 2020. He explained that the levy was advertised higher than what we can adopt by statute. This was done in order to give us flexibility and allow us to make changes if needed prior to adoption. The max levy estimate is about \$3.9 million for 2021.

President Simpson opened the public hearing. With no public question or comments, President Simpson closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to accept the advertised budget. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Water Concerns – Angela Kelsay – Ms. Kelsay was not present at the council meeting.

7498 County Line Road Property – Mr. Doane said the issues with this property have not been abated. Mr. Huddleston needs a few more details before we can proceed but we have obtained quotes for the removal of that structure. The low quote was from Gosman and he would like to proceed after approval from Mr. Huddleston.

Councilwoman Graham said the Gosman quote does not state removal of debris or backfill while the other quotes do show that.

Mr. Doane said he can double check that it is included before proceeding.

Mr. Huddleston said there may still be additional approvals needed before demolition can proceed. He will keep the council informed.

President Simpson asked what would keep the town employees from tearing down the structure.

Mr. Doane said it's possible but we would have to find a location to take the debris as well as find fill to backfill the property.

Yard Waste/Limbs/Brush Collection Revisions and Reminders – Mr. Doane said the council received a copy of some updates and reminders on yard waste pickup. Last year the times were adjusted to pickup up only on Mondays and Fridays (half day). The department is now chipping the debris rather than just hauling it off.

Street Superintendent Clark McCollum said we are just trying to educate the public on the new processes. It is difficult to chip weeds and tomato plants, so those types of things still need to be bagged. He said the limbs should not be more than 4 feet long and bags should not be more than 25 pounds.

Councilwoman Buck asked what a resident should do if they have a limb fall from a storm that is longer than 4 feet with no means of cutting it down.

Mr. Doane said that resident can call into the street department or town hall and we can try to set up arrangements to get that taken care of.

President Simpson said if there is a large storm that causes a lot of debris, he thinks the department should try to accommodate the citizens.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the 2020 yard waste removal process. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Prosser Area Stormwater Project – Mr. Doane said this has been discussed several times previously. The next step is to submit for the grant through OCRA. The max available is \$600,000. The town must commit a minimum of 10%. A higher match gets the grant more points. He asked the council to consider committing \$75,000 to \$80,000 toward this grant.

Donna Anderson of Kenna Consulting said the proposal for this project is due on September 24th, the application is due by November 20th, and the award announcement is on December 17th. The grant requires two public hearings. The town does qualify based on the census tract.

Councilman Piercefield asked if there was a favorable number that OCRA looks for in the application process.

Ms. Anderson said you get extra points for any amount up to 50%.

Mr. Doane said this project has been broken down into phases. The entire project estimate came in at around \$4 million. High School Drive is the worst part. A large chunk of this cost is just for road repair.

Councilman Piercefield asked if there was any work that could be done in house.

Ms. Anderson said the grant does allow a portion of the work, up to 25%, to be done in house but there are strict regulations and a lot of documentation. The crews cannot be on the job at the same time.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve \$80,000 towards the match for the stormwater project. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Career Firefighter/EMT Position Posting – Mr. Doane said there is an opening at the fire department as we have a career firefighter leaving to go to paramedic school. Resumes for the position are due by September 18th. He said he will come back to the council before making a decision.

Halloween 2020 – Parks Director Daniel Teter said the department has 3 different options for Halloween this year.

1. Traditional Trick-or-Treating while maintaining social distancing.
2. Modified Trunk-or-Treat at the high school track so social distancing can be maintained.
3. Trick-or-Treat parade.

The staff recommendation was option 1 and 2.

Councilman Piercefield said he does not think the council needs this oversight. He recommends normal Trick-or-Treating. Nobody is required to participate.

Councilwoman Buck said she agrees.

President Simpson said he agrees as well.

Councilwoman Graham said she agrees with normal Trick-or-Treating but does not think we should proceed with option 2 or 3.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve Trick-or-Treating hours on October 31st, 2020 from 5 pm to 8 pm. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Mr. Doane said he wanted to thank Community Director SaraBeth Drybread and Edna Whitlock for their work on the Farmers Market. It continues to grow and is great for the community.

Mr. Doane said the Community Crossing Grant process is opening up in September and he anticipates having more information by the next council meeting. County Road 900 should be done very soon.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said the water department has been producing very favorable manganese numbers. In August the numbers were around .10. Currently they are around .04. The chemical appears to be working and he has had very few dirty water complaints.

Councilwoman Buck said she had been asked about posting a memo of the meeting in the paper regarding action items from each meeting.

Mr. Finley said statute says we must have a memorandum of the meeting available after the meeting. That document would be the notes he takes during the meeting. However, that document is a lot of shorthand and is probably not in a format to be advertised. The document still gets rather long. He said it would be possible to put something together that just showed actual action taken by the council. He said the meeting minutes are already posted online; they are just delayed because they are not posted until they are approved by the council at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Graham asked if we had updates on standard operating procedures for the police department and how often they should be updated.

Mr. Huddleston said when Chief Mann was hired with the town the SOP's were updated. There is not a set timeframe they should be updated but it is good to review them annually.

Mr. Jones said he submitted a quote to the council from Bastin Logan for filter media in wells 1 and 2. This will continue to help get the manganese numbers down. The amount was \$17,840.

Mr. Finley said the department should have an adequate cash balance to make this purchase, but we are really going to need to look at a rate study in the near future.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the Bastin Logan quote for \$17,840. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said the department has been doing a lot of work in the Prosser subdivision trying to get some temporary relief from the water backups. They have been cleaning drywells and inlets on a regular basis.

Mr. Teter said the department still has fall league going on and weekend tournaments. Tracy Beier is participating in the Quarantine Queen program with Tri-Kappa and the Lions Club. Whichever program raises the most money gets a portion of the funds back.

Ms. Drybread said she was doing some research and found that the festival started in 1859, the same year as the state fair. Since we are not able to hold the festival this year the department is trying to bring a little bit of the fair to the farmers market each week. We are still going to move forward with National Night Out which gives the police and fire a chance to meet with members of the community. She said she has sent out a peer grant survey from OCRA and asked anyone who can to complete the survey. This will help decide what the grant funds go toward. Kids for Cams has already raised \$1,300 for body cams for the police officers.

Fire Chief Mike Herron said the department is hosting a blood drive at the end of this month. With the pandemic, there is a blood shortage. The department would also like to do a smoke detector blitz.

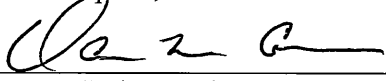
Public Comments

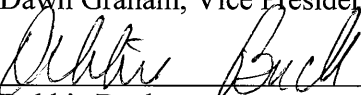
Janice Burton of 504 Fulford Drive said she would like the council to look into getting a license branch back in the town.

President Simpson said unfortunately that is handled by the state and the town has no say in that process.

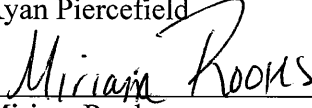
Being no further business or comments, Councilman Piercefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

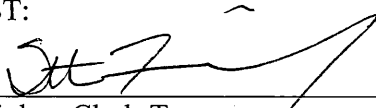
 Jeff Simpson, President


 Dawn Graham, Vice President


 Debbie Buck

 Ryan Piercefield


 Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:


 Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer