

Town Council Meeting
Monday March 22, 2021
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 22, 2021 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: *Due to the COVID-19 public emergency and per Executive Order 20-09, members may have attended electronically (e).* Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilman Ryan Piercefield (e), and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, Town Manager Dan Cartwright, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston. Vice President Dawn Graham was absent.

Minutes - Council meeting of March 8, 2021. Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Claims – The council received two claim dockets in their council packet. The first was the regular docket for the period totaling \$777,118.37 and the second was an end-of-month docket for January totaling \$280,514.37. He said he had signed off on the claims in those dockets and handed them over to the council for approval.

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

Ron Hazelgrove – Edinburgh Fall Festival – Mr. Hazelgrove said he was present to ask for funding assistance for the Fall Festival. The festival will run September 15th through September 18th assuming the pandemic has calmed down by then. The usual amount is \$3,000.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve \$3,000 to assist the Edinburgh Lion's Club with the 2021 Fall Festival if the festival is held. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-7 Purchasing Agency (Second Reading) – Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said this was drafted at the town manager's request and was before the council for a first reading at the last meeting. It increases the town manager's spending approval to \$15,000.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-7. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-6 Hiring Powers of Town Manager – Mr. Huddleston said this was discussed at the previous meeting. It was amended to provide that any hiring of existing positions would be under the authority of the town manager with the exception of Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Town Marshall, Deputy Town Marshall, Building Commissioner, Community Center Director and any newly created position.

Councilman Piercefield said since the town council acts as the merit board for the police and fire, he would like Mr. Huddleston to look into how the merit board would function with hiring in those departments.

Mr. Huddleston said he would look into those scenarios.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to table Resolution 2021-6 until the next meeting. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-7 Access to Town Trash Compactor – Mr. Huddleston said this resolution reflects the action taken by the town council at the previous meeting. Residents will be allowed to dump trash at no cost on certain days. The trial basis will be from March 19th to April 17th.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-7. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried 3 to 1 with Councilwoman Buck voting nay.

Resolution 2021-8 Expressing Interest in Real Estate – Mr. Huddleston said this resolution was drafted per the council's request regarding the vacant lot adjacent to Timbergate Golf Course. This appoints two appraisers who will file an appraisal report to the town.

Town Manager Dan Cartwright said the staff has investigated other options for access to the lift station on this property and have not found any viable options.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-8. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Bob Smith – Breathe Easy Edinburgh – Mr. Smith said he is a member and chair of Breathe Easy. He said he has lived in Johnson County for over 60 years and works for the local Health Department. He said he wanted to commend the City of Franklin for passing a comprehensive smoke free ordinance. He explained the effects of second-hand smoke. The only safe way to eliminate second-hand smoke is to ban smoking in all public places.

Donald Peek said he is a member of several veteran's organizations. He gave some facts on how veteran's organizations thrive after banning smoking. It helps those organization if the town has an ordinance to back them. He held a brief discussion on tobacco use in the military and the costs associated with smoking in the VA. He compared anti-smoking rules to seatbelt laws in the past. He asked the council to consider the lives of citizens and pass an ordinance banning smoking.

Carol McKinney said she has been a resident of Edinburgh for 50 years and Edinburgh is a close-knit community. She grew up in a town similar to Edinburgh. She explained that she lost her dad to lung cancer and her sister picked up smoking in nursing school. We did not know then what we know now about smoking and tobacco use. She explained how the economic status of the community can be affected by poor air quality. Modern employers do not want to come to a community that are not providing a healthy work environment. She explained they she is not present to bash smokers. She is present to think about the long-term consequences of poor air quality.

Mr. Huddleston said if the council would like, he can draft an ordinance.

Discussion was held regarding local establishments that allow smoking.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft an ordinance for the council to review. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Walnut Street Roadway Improvements Bid Award – Mr. Cartwright said bids for the Walnut Street project were received and reviewed by the engineers. The apparent low bidder was Robertson Paving at \$703,953.70. This amount was below the engineer's estimate.

Councilman Buck made a motion to approve the Robertson Paving bid subject to legal drafting an agreement. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Procuring Walnut Street Right-of-Way – Mr. Cartwright said in order to complete the Walnut Street project, it was necessary to obtain right-of-way from Sacoma and Gelfius. Both have agreed to give the town the right-of-way at no cost. An agreement has been prepared for Sacoma and an agreement will also be prepared for the Gelfius property.

Mr. Huddleston said he is awaiting a title search on the property before an agreement is drafted on the Gelfius property.

Limiting Access Due to COVID-19 – Mr. Cartwright said the current resolution limiting town access due to COVID-19 has expired. He has provided the council copies of the documents.

Mr. Huddleston said he wanted to clarify that the COVID-19 mitigation policy will continue, it is just the limitation of access resolution that has expired.

President Simpson said he recommended opening offices back up and see how cases go over the next few months and continue to monitor the situation.

Architect Contract – Mr. Cartwright said this was presented at the last meeting. The design would help get the town in ADA compliance with an ADA restroom as well as give ADA access to the upstairs area. He explained that he was just asking for approval for design, not construction. The money would be available from the Riverboat Fund.

Councilman Piercefield said he is still steadfast on his opinion from last meeting to hold off on this process. Councilwoman Buck agreed.

President Simpson said he would like to hold off on a vote until the full council is present.

Award Contract to Purchase Transformer for Centra Credit Union – Mr. Cartwright said Centra would be beginning construction soon. The electric department has obtained bids for transformers to get power to the building.

Electric Superintendent Kevin Rubush said there is a 9-week lead time for the more expensive transformer and a 14-to-16-week lead time on the less expensive one from Anixter. That time frame should not be an issue. He said that transformer could also feed future services in that area.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of the transformer from Anixter for \$7,965. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Roosevelt Transformer – Mr. Cartwright said there is an ongoing issue with the transformer on Roosevelt. The current lead time on that transformer is about 50 weeks. He introduced Larry Rudolf of Alpha Engineering to give an explanation of the issue.

Mr. Rudolf said the transformer issue jeopardizes the town's electrical reliability. The load for the town is normally distributed half and half between the two transformers. If the trouble transformer were to go down, the town would have to function on the one transformer. In 2017 the transformer was found to have high levels of gas. They have been unable to find the issue causing the gassing. The issue could be the tap changer, but it is very difficult to get to. Sending it to the factory would leave the town with one transformer. He explained the town's options. The first was a basic repair (if possible) costing about \$185,000. It will cost approximately \$46,000 just to send the unit in to see if repair is possible. The town would need to lease a transformer at \$1,200 per day. The estimated costs are as follows:

- Option 1: Lease + basic repair - \$536,500
- Option 2: Lease + remanufacture – \$938,000
- Option 3: Temporary Replacement - \$416,500
- Option 4: New Transformer - \$584,000

A new transformer would have a 40-to-50-year life expectancy. The town would still own the old transformer and could send it out for remanufacture to have a spare. The town will also need another transformer for the new substation. The town could order two to cut down on design cost and delay delivery until the unit is needed.

Mike Jenner of Alpha explained Project Lava that is interested in a large operation in the industrial area.

Ben Huckaba of Alpha said the next step would be to get formal quotes. We could get a base price for one unit with an optional second unit.

Mr. Finley gave an update on the financials of the electric utility.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Alpha to obtain bids for the first transformer with an option for a second transformer. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Mr. Cartwright said the parks department is still very interested in the Simpson property adjacent to the sports complex. After appraisals, the town can pay, at most, \$76,000 for that property. Daniel is working with other agencies to try to make up the difference. The property would help with parking at the sports complex. He said he will report back with more information.

Mr. Teter said the property could be used for both a gymnasium and also help alleviate some of the parking issues they have on weekends.

Mr. Cartwright said the staff has been cleaning the entrance to town near the dam. Eventually he would like to get some gateway signage put up in that area. He said he would also like to continue the conversation on closing the stairs at the dam.

President Simpson and Councilwoman Buck said they are not in favor of closing the stairs.

Councilwoman Rooks said she is in favor of closing them due to the legal ramifications if someone were to get hurt. She said she does understand that there are other ways to access that area as well.

Mr. Huddleston said eliminating the dam and/or the stairs leading to the river would help the town's legal position if there were a lawsuit involving the dam, but he also understands there are other factors involved.

Mr. Cartwright said there is a home on River Road that is interested in selling to the town. He said he would like to clean that area up if possible.

President Simpson said he thinks the town has too much going on right now to think about obtaining another piece of property.

Mr. Cartwright said the town will be receiving some funds through the American Rescue Plan. He said he will report back when more is known but it appears the town will receive just under \$1 million.

Mr. Cartwright said he was at the golf course recently and noticed a billboard on the golf course. The staff can not find any lease or record of money received for that billboard. He would like to investigate this issue with Mr. Huddleston.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston and Mr. Cartwright to further investigate the billboard in question. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Cartwright said Project Lava that was mentioned by Mr. Jenner is moving very fast. If that project moves forward, they would more than double the town's electricity usage.

Council Comments

Councilman Piercefield said he has been having questions about the comp time from employees. He would like to revisit the comp time policy and possibly allow more hours.

Mr. Huddleston said Mr. Cartwright brought up the Simpson property adjacent to the sports complex. He is not sure if the town could purchase the property if the town were donated the extra funds. He thinks there is a way to purchase it, but he needs to investigate further.

Mr. Teter said he has been getting pledges from potential donors, not taking any actual funds.

Mr. Huddleston said Councilwoman Graham asked him to bring up some complaints regarding drones flying on other people's properties in town. She wanted to see if there was an ordinance the town could pass prohibiting that type of trespassing.

Town Marshall Doyne Little said there are a lot of gray areas in drone laws and it really boils down to the operator's intent.

Mr. Huddleston said he can look into other city and town ordinances.

Mr. Finley said the spring employee appreciation is coming up in April. The consensus of the staff is that they would prefer to have the half day off and not have the employee lunch.

The council said if that is what the staff prefers, that is fine.

Street Superintendent Clark McCollum said he would like to get approval from the council to get budgetary numbers for the roads submitted to council.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Mr. McCollum to get budget pricing for 2021 paving projects. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said softball tournaments have started. He is looking into some veteran banners to put on the light poles on East Main Cross. The department is currently hiring for part time mowers.

Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread said Girls Inc. applications are currently available for girls ages 6 to 15. We already have 6 applications for the farmer's market this year. The town has received approval for that process from the Johnson County Health Department. She said she is planning some fun summer events this year including a Main Cross yard sale and a golf cart cruise-in.

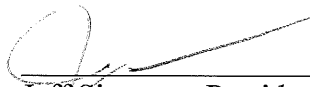
Mr. Cartwright said there is a shed near the dam that is not used anymore. He said he has spoken with the school and they are ok if the town tears it down. He will proceed with that process.

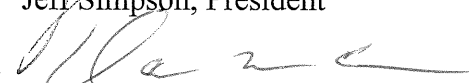
Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said the first heavy trash collection event seemed to be well received. There were about 40 citizens that brought items to the compactor. She said she had a discussion with Ray's, and they told her that they will pick up items directly from citizens houses for a fee. She did not tell Ray's that she was a town employee but simply asked what she would need to do to have something large picked up.

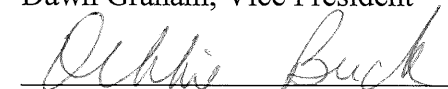
Mr. McCollum said he would like to get a cost schedule from Ray's for all items.

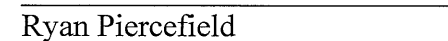
Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Jeff Simpson, President

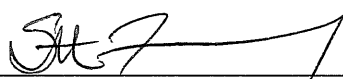

Dawn Graham, Vice President


Debbie Buck


Ryan Piercefield


Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:


Scott Finley