

Town Council Meeting
Monday April 12, 2021
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, April 12, 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, Vice President Dawn Graham, Councilman Ryan Piercefield (e), and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, Town Manager Dan Cartwright, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

Minutes - Council meeting of March 22, 2021. Councilwoman Buck 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 packet. The total for that docket was \$395,930.01. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on the claims in that docket and handed them over to the council for approval.

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

Resolution 2021-6 Hiring Powers of Town Manager – Mr. Huddleston said he modified this resolution per discussion at the last meeting. The council will also be responsible for hiring police officers and firefighters as it is the de facto merit board.

Discussion was held regarding how hiring would happen between department heads and the town manager.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-6. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-9 SRF Loan – Mr. Huddleston said this was prepared by Kenna Consulting and is required if the town wants to proceed with the application for the SRF loan for the water treatment plant. He said it is acceptable and ready for approval.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-9. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow President Simpson to sign Resolution 2021-9 on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-8 Air Quality (First Reading) – Mr. Huddleston said he put this ordinance together based on last meeting's discussion and other community's ordinances. This is the most restrictive so the council can have a starting point.

Councilwoman Graham said she is against this ordinance. She does not feel that the council should be telling private business owners what they can and cannot do with their property. We are adults and make a conscious decision to enter a place that allows smoking.

Councilman Piercefield said he is in favor. This seems to be the going trend in communities.

Councilwoman Rooks said she takes Councilwoman Graham's point that we are all adults, but she is also in favor of this ordinance.

Councilwoman Buck said she tends to agree with Councilwoman Graham that it should be left up to the business.

President Simpson said he cannot stand smoking, but he agrees we are adults, and we can choose not to go to a place that allows smoking.

Discussion was held regarding possible adjustments to the ordinance and how far away from an entry people could smoke.

Councilwoman Graham said this ordinance changes the distance from an entryway where people can smoke which would require new signs to be purchased by the business.

Carol McKinney said Breathe Easy would provide funds for changing signage.

President Simpson said to send Mr. Huddleston any adjustments before the next meeting.

Being a first reading, no action was taken.

Agreement for Maintenance and Dedication of Sewer Facilities – Mr. Huddleston said this item and the next on the agenda are both related, and he would recommend not approving these agreements yet. There have been some issues regarding the bond for the dedication. The bond would cover any issues with the infrastructure for a set amount of time after the dedication.

Agreement for Maintenance and Dedication of Water Facilities – Councilwoman Graham made a motion to table the agreements for maintenance and dedication of water and sewer facilities until the bond issue is corrected. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Contract Employing Attorney – Mr. Huddleston said there has been no change to his attorney contract aside from the dates. The rates and verbiage are all the same as the previous agreement.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the attorney contract with Mr. Huddleston. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Sacoma Tax Abatement – Building Commissioner Wade Watson said this is an application for a personal property tax abatement. His staff report outlines the history of Sacoma and its abatements. This abatement would be for the purchase of \$1.15 million of manufacturing equipment and would add 9 employees. The staff recommendation is for approval of the abatement, authorize President Simpson to sign the SB-1, and authorize Mr. Huddleston to draft a resolution memorializing the abatement.

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

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a resolution memorializing the tax abatement. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Compensatory Time Discussion – Mr. Finley said Councilman Piercefield had asked that this be placed on the agenda as there were some employees contacting him regarding comp time. He said he believes the biggest issue has been employees not being allowed to split comp time and overtime on the same timecard if they have hit the maximum amount. He said he believes that issue has been resolved now the time is calculated in the payroll system rather than in a separate excel sheet.

Police Swat Gear – Mr. Cartwright said Officer Shawn Kelsay has been invited to be on the Johnson County Swat Team but needs special gear for the training. The cost of the gear is \$4,705.

Town Marshall Doyne Little said he got three quotes, but this is a specialty product so two of the quotes are from the same company. He said Officer Kelsay brings back great information from the SWAT training to share with the department.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the SWAT gear purchase from Nelson and Co. for \$4,705. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Fire Station Land Acquisition – Mr. Cartwright said Hal Gelfius was asking \$500,000 for 10 acres of land the town would like to build a fire station on in the future. After appraisals, the max the town can pay is \$487,500. Mr. Gelfius has agreed to that price. The next step would be to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a purchase agreement. The fire station would not need the entire 10 acres and the extra acreage could be used for a substation in that area.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a purchase agreement for the Hal Gelfius property. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Architect Contract – Mr. Cartwright said this architectural design would be to take care of an ADA restroom in town hall and plan expansion of the office space upstairs. This is not for any construction, just design. The amount is \$4,520.

Councilman Piercefield said he is still not for doing this project at this time.

Councilwoman Graham asked if there was any urgency.

Mr. Cartwright said the office space is not extremely urgent, but the ADA restroom is a necessity.

Mr. Watson said the town has an agreement with INDOT that in order to be eligible for grant funding, we will be in compliance with our ADA transition plan. A complaint on a town building would give minimal time to correct the issue.

Councilman Piercefield asked how many other town owned buildings were not ADA compliant.

Mr. Watson said 100% percent of them. We will never be completely compliant but need to move towards our compliance plan. The town hall and utility office are a building that we invite the public to, it should be a priority.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to table the architect design quote for 90 days. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Mr. Cartwright said he is looking to add additional office staff as Mr. Watson is retiring next year. He would like to add a planner position around July that would work with Mr. Watson during the transition. There are multiple projects coming up that will require infrastructure inspections. Wessler quoted \$21,000 to inspect the Prosser project. This person could relieve the need for an outside service to inspect those types of projects.

Discussion was held regarding development in town.

Councilwoman Buck asked if this was a backfill for Mr. Watson.

Mr. Cartwright said it would be a new position until Mr. Watson retired at which point it would only be filled if deemed necessary.

Discussion was held regarding the pay range for the position.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to advertise for the planner position. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Cartwright said we are doing a minor renovation to the town hall to add an office for that position.

Mr. Cartwright said he had a meeting with Johnson County Recycling. The town is going to continue the recycling depot at the current location but add an indicator bell and have the street department take over. He would also like to change the days and hours.

Discussion was held regarding hours of operation.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to set the recycling depot hours to Tuesday's 8am to 12pm and Thursday's 12pm to 4pm. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Cartwright said we had an ADA issue with a gentleman in a wheel chair at the utility office. He was unable to get his chair through the front door. He has had our ADA consultant look at the front door to tell us how to correct this issue. He has drawn up a plan on how to correct the issue.

Mr. Cartwright said the film crew he discussed a few meetings ago would need to close the downtown street for filming in June. He would recommend turning this offer to Dustin if the council wants to allow the filming.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow the filming in the downtown area subject to legal review and drafting of legal documents. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Cartwright said the brick on the side of the community center is separating from the wall. We have closed the sidewalk, but this could cause major issues if it were to fall.

Mr. Watson said he received two estimates. Both masons consider this to be a hazardous issue. He explained why the situation is occurring and the needed repairs. The staff recommendation was to allow Bradshaw to do the work as they worked on the building during the restoration.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Bradshaw quote without the painting for \$32,955. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Buck asked about the heavy trash process.

Mr. Cartwright said he has had several phone calls but ultimately the drop off has been a success. This weekend will be the last weekend of the trial.

Mr. Huddleston said he has recorded the documents required for the Walnut Street right-of-way we acquired from the two property owners.

President Simpson thanked both landowners, Sacoma and Hal Gelfius for donating that property.

Mr. Finley said he provided the council with the annual TIF report. The only action needed is an acknowledgement that the council has received the report.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion acknowledging the receipt of the annual TIF report. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Finley said Exit 76 Storage has numerous utility accounts that they plan to keep in their own name. He recommended allowing a blanket deposit for these accounts rather than a deposit for each individual meter. After reviewing the bills, he believes a \$1,115 deposit all accounts is adequate.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow a blanket deposit for Exit 76 Storage of \$1,115. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Finley said he was asked by Interim Fire Chief Tim Bryant to bring up a fire/ems liability waiver for students or other people outside of the department that ride on the fire engine or ambulance.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a liability waiver for the fire department. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Electric Superintendent Kevin Rubush said the council approved a transformer purchase at the last meeting. When placing the order, they said it would be \$3,000 higher than the quote. Therefore, the other quote from Brownstown of \$10,252 is lower.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the purchase of the transformer from Brownstown Electric for \$10,252. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread said we are planning a golf cart cruise-in on May 6th. Curly dogs will be available for a fund raiser. There will also be a community yard sale in June. There are about 15 vendors lined up for the farmer's market.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said the Prosser project is moving right along. The 100% design meeting will be April 26th. She said she anticipates the real trial for heavy trash to be this weekend since the flyers went out this month.

Street Superintendent Clark McCollum said Crossroads has begun work on the asset management plan. That process should be done in couple of weeks. He said he is still in favor of Ray's doing the heavy trash pickup and he has been hearing from citizens that \$200 is too much for a truck rental. He would like to see a smaller truck rental added to the fee schedule for \$100.

Further discussion was held regarding the heavy trash pickup process.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said at the last meeting the council allowed Mr. Huddleston to look into how to obtain the Simpson property so he has been working on pledges to make up the difference of the appraisals and the max purchase price. He has obtained \$38,000 in pledges.

Mr. Huddleston said he is still working on how the town can legally obtain this property. He wants to get direct approval from the SBOA before we proceed as it is a gray area. He said he does not want to do something and run into issues later.

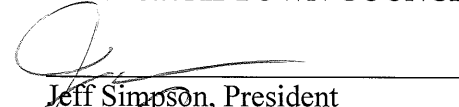
Mr. Teter said he has also spoken with the Heritage Fund in Bartholomew County about paying for the design fees on a gymnasium.

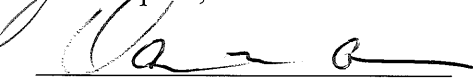
Mr. Teter said he would like to look at shutting the pool back down after school goes back in session. The costs at the pool are essentially the same each month regardless of attendance and the revenues decrease drastically. There will be significant costs coming up with pool repairs. The pool is beyond its life expectancy and the town will be faced with some difficult decision regarding the pool. The building itself is outdated and not ADA compliant.

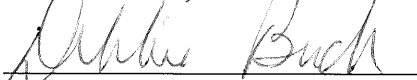
Water Superintendent Bill Jones said the department has completed the hot tap on US 31 by Driftside for Meadowlawn. The department also completed the hot tap on Franklin Street and the valve there was broken in the closed position. He plans to have the south side water tower painted this year based on previous council approval. The Eastern Bartholomew Water Connection hot taps and vaults are complete and the whole project should be completed in about a month.

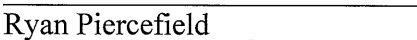
Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.


EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Jeff Simpson, President

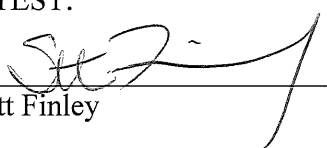

Dawn Graham, Vice President


Debbie Buck


Ryan Piercefield


Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:


Scott Finley