

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

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, November 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 ((e) represents virtual attendance): Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Vice President Dawn Graham, Councilman Piercefield, and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, and Town Manager Dan Cartwright.

Minutes – Council meeting of November 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 packets. The first was an end-of-month docket for September totaling \$775,717.14 and the second was the regular docket for the period totaling \$1,637,937.56. 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 claims as submitted. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Annual Health Insurance Renewal – Mr. Finley said he, Mary Patterson, Dan Cartwright, and Jeff Simpson met with the town's agent of record, Larry Mayfield. During that meeting it was decided that the best option for the town would be to renew with SIHO. In order to offset some of the 17% increase, the staff put together 7 options for how the cost would be split between the employee and the employer. Currently the town pays 77% and the employee pays 23% for all covered individuals. He explained each option to the council. The options included different increases in premiums for the employee, increases for just the dependents, as well as a spousal carve out. He said those options are before the council for approval. We need to get this approved as soon as possible so we can inform the employees during open enrollment.

President Simpson said in the meeting with Mr. Mayfield there were other companies presented but they could not meet the same deductible we currently have.

Discussion was held regarding other healthcare options for the future and the spousal carve out.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Option 1 with a spousal carve out. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried. Motion carried. 4 to 1 with Councilman Piercefield voting nay.

Ordinance 2021-20 Commercial Properties Knox Box (Second Reading) – Mr. Huddleston said the Department of Homeland Security offers to review this prior to adoption. They provided those comments today and recommended several revisions. He said he should have that ready by the next meeting.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-20 until Mr. Huddleston completes the revisions. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-22 Amendment to Ordinance 1989-9 Alarm System (First Reading) – Mr. Huddleston said this was discussed by Town Marshall Doyne Little at the last meeting. The ordinance increases the fee for false alarms.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2021-22 and consider it for approval. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-22. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Huddleston said because this ordinance imposes a fee it will need to be advertised before it can take effect.

Ordinance 2021-23 Unsafe Building Code (First Reading) – Mr. Huddleston said this was requested by Building and Zoning Official Robert Overton. The old ordinance referenced departments that do not exist anymore. This is a first reading and Mr. Overton and Planning Director Wade Watson have a few changes they would like to see.

Mr. Watson said they would like some broader language to encompass dwellings used to in the production of methamphetamine and also change some penalties.

No action was taken.

State of Indiana Opioid Settlement – Mr. Huddleston said earlier this year the town received notice that we would be included in a lawsuit regarding the opioid crisis. If the town were to opt out it would be saying they believe they can get a better settlement on their own. The time to opt out has expired so the town is included in this settlement. He recommended the town register through the portal to appoint a point of contact.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to appoint the Town Manager as the point to contact for the opioid settlement. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Access and Maintenance Agreement – Mr. Huddleston said the council had requested that this agreement be changed to add a provision that the town be responsible to repair damages outside of the easement. That has been added and the rest of the document is the same.

Councilwoman Graham said that document was not included in the council packet.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to table the Access and Maintenance Agreement until it can be review by the council. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Pole Testing Service Contract – Mr. Cartwright said the council authorized him to get competitive pricing for pole testing. The town received three quotes and Jim Hill of Alpha Engineering is present to explain those quotes.

Mr. Hill said there are very few companies that do this type of work, but they were able to contact three. Alamon was the low bid and responded to all questions about their quote. He said he contacted some references and they had a favorable report. There are three different types of testing they do. Boring is the most intrusive and cannot be done on poles that do not belong to the town. Those poles belonging to other utilities will have a visual inspection and a partial excavation. The estimated cost is about \$25,000 but it could be as high as \$30,000 depending on the condition of the poles and what testing is required.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the pole testing contract with Alamon. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

New Substation Financing Discussion – Mr. Cartwright said in his manager's report he indicated a large amount of electrical work that will need to be done in the next few years. One of those projects is the substation on the southside of town. The estimated cost on that project is just over \$3 million. The town needs to determine how to fund this project. He recommends a bond issuance.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to allow Mr. Cartwright to proceed with the bond issuance process with Baker Tilly. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Federal Vaccine Mandate – Mr. Cartwright said the town falls into vaccine mandate category as we have over 100 employees. The deadline is January 4th. Currently there has been a stay placed on this mandate. He said he will keep the council updated on the status of this mandate.

Mr. Huddleston said there a several lawsuits regarding this mandate currently. The town should have a policy in place in case the stay does not continue. The issue will most likely be appealed to the supreme court.

Discussion was held on federal funding if a policy is not in place.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a policy regarding the federal vaccine mandate. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Fire Department Gear Acquisition – Fire Chief John Henderson said the department needs several pieces of equipment including 22 sets of turnout gear and 18 helmets. There are currently some supply chain issues and this equipment is months out. This replaces gear that is expiring.

Mr. Finley said the department has enough appropriations in their budget, but it will require a transfer of appropriations.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of fire equipment as presented for \$54,190. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Mr. Cartwright said the aquatic center project has been sent out for public bid. The bids are due in by December 13th at 5:30. The leaf vacuum broke down and is in the shop for repairs. Street Superintendent Clark McCollum was able to borrow a piece of equipment from Columbus to continue with leaf pick up until ours is fixed. He said the downtown area is in need of parking. He would like to look at acquiring the building across from the library to tear down for parking. The first step would be getting appraisals. He would like authorization for Mr. Huddleston to proceed with obtaining appraisals.

Councilwoman Graham asked if we knew what demolition costs would be or how many parking spots it would create.

Mr. Cartwright said no. It may create 25 to 30 spaces.

Councilman Piercefield said that ground could also be contaminated based on the history of that building.

Electric Superintendent Kevin Rubush said that building is the old train depot and could be a historic landmark.

The council agreed they needed further information before proceeding.

Mr. Cartwright said the staff has an auction list of smaller items that will be auctioned at a council meeting.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to hold an auction at the February 14, 2022, council meeting. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilman Piercefield asked about the contractor issue on the Prosser project.

Mr. Cartwright said the project is behind schedule. The contractor has done a poor job, but Wessler has done a poor job of administering it. A conversation was had with Wessler on Friday and they have appointed a new project engineer. There is a change order to modify the schedule. The biggest concern is completing the project before the paving starts. The project is now set to be completed by March 18th, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding any financial impact with the project change.

Town Marshall Doyne Little said he has heard that the cost of vehicles may be going up next year. He will keep an eye on that moving forward. Black Friday at the mall is always a hassle. The mall pays officers to direct traffic that day. He is working with INDOT to get the lights changed on that day.


Water Superintendent Bill Jones said he had a phone call from Prince's Lakes, and they are trying to create redundancy in their water service. There is a non-competitive grant available to pay for engineering costs. Atterbury and Prince's Lakes think they can get a grant for construction. It should not cost the town anything.

Mr. Watson said the grant is and 90%/10% grant but the 10% can be paid for in labor hours.

Mr. Jones said the town has an agreement with Suez for well maintenance. Suez and Peerless have separated. They have given the option to cancel the contract at no cost to the town. Mr. Huddleston is reviewing that contract.

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

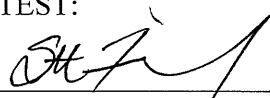


Ryan Piercefield



Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:



Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer