

Town Council Meeting
Monday November 26, 2012
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday November 26, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

President Hoffman thanked everyone for coming.

Members answering roll call were: Councilman John Drybread, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Councilwoman Kami Ervin, Vice President Curtis Rooks and President Ron Hoffman. Also present was Clerk Treasurer Jackie Smith and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the minutes of the November 13, 2012 council meeting. Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve the minutes. Council Simpson seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said claims were next on the agenda and turned it over to Clerk Treasurer Smith.

Clerk Treasurer Smith said he had signed all the claims presented to him and turned them over to the council for approval. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claims. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the Johnson County Development Corporation review. In the past we have signed this which costs the town \$5,000. I would like to open it up to the board on their opinions whether to continue or discontinue this.

Councilwoman Ervin asked what have they done for us?

Councilman Drybread said I don't know of any positive or negative feedback that we have gotten for development from Johnson County. They send us information that they have. Most economic development we get comes into the town hall. They usually ask what the prices are on property and utilities. As for anything tangible in our hand I haven't seen anything.

Councilwoman Ervin said last year they talked about doing photos and getting us on the map.

Councilman Drybread said most of that is available anyway through Johnson, Bartholomew and Shelby County. We have aerial photos and from Beacon and GPS we can get about anything we want.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if we don't sign this will it be something we can reconsider doing next year?

Councilman Drybread said it is a yearly deal and basically the only thing that changes on the contract is the date.

Town Attorney Huddleston said there are a couple of revisions. One is the e-verify program. It is an Indiana State Law that any person you contract with will have to verify their employees. The other one is that this corporation does not do any business with the country of Iran. There is a state statute that says if you do business with the country of Iran you have to notify the Indiana Secretary of State and be added to the list and if the municipality does do business with that country you have to have findings that you have to do with that corporation. Those are the two additions that have been added.

Councilman Drybread said my only thought was that they wanted to come and talked to the board on the first meeting in December and to give us an update on things. Mr. President I don't know if you want to vote on this tonight or to think about it?

President Hoffman said whatever the majority decides is what we should do.

Councilman Rooks asked if there is stuff that we can do in house so we don't need the Johnson County Development Corporation? It sounds like there is stuff out there that we can do ourselves and if we need outsource help couldn't we see if there is a company to help us?

Councilman Drybread said the reason we signed up with the Johnson County Development Board was for the image that we had no economic development department on board. How do we promote the town and how do we get information? The truth of it is Wade will probably see them first for information on property and utilities. They do offer a little better professional services than we do. You have \$ 5,000 a year and could that be better used to serve the community? What I have seen over the last 20 years is they usually come to the town hall first and this is why we don't have an economic development board any more. When Bob Davis was here they would usually come to his office for information. Usually locations are predetermined.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if not having a representative would affect us getting grants?

Councilman Drybread said no, Wade actually sets in on some of their meetings as our representative. We wouldn't have a place at the table if we don't sign the contract and if there is something specific to Edinburgh it would be generated by us.

Councilwoman Ervin said if we apply for grants I know it helps to have our plans in place.

Councilman Drybread said I don't think there is anything on our grants checklist that we have to be a member of a county wide or professional economic board.

President Hoffman said Wade I would like your opinion.

Building Commissioner Watson said he would like to clarify a couple of things. You can think of them as a professional marketing group that markets Edinburgh. They will frequently bring up properties that are available to rent even in Bartholomew County. You can make the decision if we are being marketed effectively or not for \$ 5,000. If you don't do it they take us off the list and when someone comes into Johnson County looking for property we won't be mentioned. What typically has been done in the past is real estate agencies would be marketing those properties, but how effectively that is done we don't know. Basically what the Johnson County Development Corporation does is they try to market Johnson County to attract business into the county.

Councilman Drybread said what they actually do is if a business bound for specifically for Edinburgh they will follow up with us and the final questions is: Is that worth \$ 5,000?

Councilman Rooks said if we do have this company and there is a company looking at Edinburgh and Franklin would they push for Franklin because they are bigger than us?

President Hoffman said my question to Wade is: Do you have any communications with them besides the meetings that make you believe they are earnestly trying? I get the opinion they are marketing twice as hard in Franklin and Greenwood as they are in Edinburgh and I understand why, but if we are part of it we should be an equal part.

Building Commissioner Watson said what I hear currently is they are looking for something to move into right away and we do not have properties that are suitable. As you know Franklin built that building as a speculative building because of the requests for that kind of property.

Councilman Rooks asked which property?

Building Commissioner Wade said it is the building in the industrial park by the interstate.

Councilman Drybread said that was driven by the Franklin Economic Redevelopment Commission and not through Johnson County Development Corporation.

Councilman Rooks said Franklin's own development did that, not Johnson County.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if Wade had any contacts with them besides the meetings that you attend?

Building Commissioner Watson said occasionally I get communications from them.

President Hoffman asked if they were phone call or e-mail?

Building Commissioner Watson said usually e-mails, but occasionally personal calls. We had an issue when they brought down a company to look at the Lear building. There was some property that instigated some action. So if it is relevant yes, but I haven't seen the results of an aggressive marketing program for Edinburgh.

Councilman Rooks said my personal opinion is if we are going to spend \$ 5,000 I would rather bring in a company just for us to advertise our property to sell Edinburgh. I don't think we are getting anything out of this.

Councilman Simpson made a motion not to renew the contract with Johnson County Development Corporation. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said that we could spend the \$ 5,000 on something Edinburgh needs and we might think about having someone, it would not be a full time job but it is something to talk about.

Councilman Drybread said it is a yearly thing and if they want to come back in a year and things have changed and they say this is how we approach the marketing now.

Councilwoman Ervin said as I recall we had this same conversation last year with her and were asking the same questions and her saying we are going to do this and that.

President Hoffman said and we haven't seen her at a meeting since then.

President Hoffman said Wade I should have asked you, but do you have a problem with this?

Building Commissioner Watson said no I don't.

Town Attorney Huddleston said Mr. President I only ask how you want to communicate that to the Johnson County Development Corporation?

President Hoffman said a personal call, a letter or an e-mail. Since you have been the contact I think you need to respond.

Town Attorney Huddleston said I will do so.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Drybread said the parking lot is finished and Wade has drawn up the parking spaces to be painted and we will probably start on that next week. When the weather breaks we will be doing landscaping around the islands by the lights. Daniel is not here tonight. We talked to a contractor today about putting up awnings over the doors at the sports complex to match the building. We are getting ready for the holiday season and employee appreciation day is December 14th. Mary has gotten all of that done.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Marshall Mann said after Black Friday and 4 guys being out with the flu he is glad to be here.

President Hoffman asked him how the feedback has been?

Town Marshall Mann said very positive. I have been speaking with more people and the common concern is narcotics, which are every community's concern, and we will concentrate on that one. He presented the council with a picture of a WD 40 can and narcotics and told the council they made a stop last week and the WD 40 can had the bottom cut out and filled with meth and other things. That came off of our streets last week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Caleb Barrett said he was attending the meeting as a requirement for working on a merit badge.

Bill Jones said he lived on 252 and since we have a new noise ordinance I wondered if we could get signs that says no j brakes?

Town Attorney Huddleston said we posted similar signs at Timbergate about no fishing and no trespassing.

President asked if we have a specific ordinance about?

Bill said the noise ordinance.

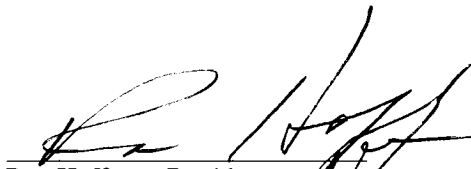
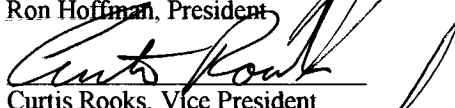
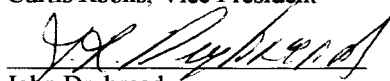
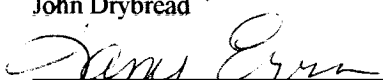
Councilman Rooks said before he got on the board there was something in place to prevent this.

President Hoffman said we need to look into this and asked Wade if he would please do that?

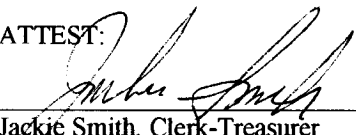
Building Commissioner Wade said he would be happy to do that.

Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ron Hoffman, President

Curtis Rooks, Vice President

John Drybread

Kani Ervin

Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:

Jackie Smith, Clerk-Treasurer