

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 29, 2021
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Wednesday, December 29, 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, Councilman Ryan Piercefield, and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley and Town Manager Dan Cartwright. Vice President Dawn Graham and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston were absent.

Minutes – Executive Meeting of December 13, 2021, and council meeting of December 13, 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 the council packet. The total for the docket was \$897,550.61. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on the claims in that docket and handed them over to the council for approval.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve claims as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. President Simpson abstained as there was a claim for his work in the docket. Motion carried.

Swearing in Ceremony for Fire and EMS Personnel – Mr. Finley said Brandon Shepherd, Joe Sinclair, and Brandon Fix of the fire department were present to be officially sworn in.

Mr. Finley performed the oath of office for the three Firefighters and congratulated them for their positions within the town.

Town Manager Dan Cartwright said while we are acknowledging town employees, Deputy Town Marshall Hector Mercado recently received the Roosevelt Award for outstanding and brave services. The award was given to two people, Mr. Mercado and Franklin Police Chief Kirby Cochran. The award is for outstanding and brave service. The town is very lucky to have Mr. Mercado at the department.

Councilman Piercefield said he would also like to acknowledge Officer Shawn Kelsay as the first Edinburgh officer to be a part of Johnson County S.W.A.T.

Aquatic Center Facility Bid Discussion – Mr. Cartwright said at the last meeting bids were received for the aquatic center building. The budget for this project was about \$400,000. The low bid came in at \$767,000. He said he had a conversation with a contractor after receiving the bids and was told that budget would have been good a year ago, but prices of building supplies have increased over the last 12 months. He recommended rejecting all proposals and proceed with an alternative plan. He believes that two staff members can get that building to 70% of the ADA requirements. Those employees would be John Burton and a part timer yet to be hired. The cost would be between \$50,000 and \$70,000.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if there were any part time employees on staff that could help without hiring a new employee.

Mr. Cartwright said at the time, we do not.

Councilwoman Buck asked if we could have the project bid at a later date to see if prices go down.

Councilman Piercefield said he does not see prices going down. He does not want to scrap the project but that is too much money to put into that pool when the pool itself needs work too.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said there is a lot of work that needs done at the pool. It is past its life expectancy and has started to become a money pit. The town may get 4 or 5 more years out of the existing pool.

Discussion was held regarding needed repairs.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to reject all bids for the aquatic center project. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to proceed with aquatic center renovations in-house, not to exceed \$75,000. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-27 Salary Ordinance (Second Reading) – Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-27. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-28 Transfer of Appropriations (Second Reading) – Mr. Finley said this was presented at the previous meeting. The detailed transfers have been added and the ordinance is ready for approval. Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-28. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-29 Providing Assistance to the Food Pantry – Mr. Cartwright said the resolution was first passed in 2020 and said that the town would provide electric service to the food pantry. The cost for the utilities last year was about \$2,800.

Mr. Finley said the town actually pays electric, water, and wastewater for that building. He would recommend amending the resolution to state the town will pay all utilities as well and pest control and fire extinguisher maintenance.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-29 with the addition of water, wastewater, pest control, and fire extinguisher maintenance services. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-30 Board Appointments – Planning Director Wade Watson said he worked with Director of Administrative Services Mary Patterson to contact the people being appointed by this resolution. All have been notified and agreed to be appointed to the respective boards.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-30. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Federal Vaccine Mandate Policy – Mr. Cartwright said this has been a touchy subject, but the council needs to have a policy in place if the mandate is upheld in the court. The supreme court will hold oral arguments on January 7, 2022. At that point the mandate could be stayed again, modified, or thrown out. The town has a requirement to have a policy in place by January 10th. Mr. Huddleston has drafted a policy. He said he has had conversations with him regarding the policy and have found several things that he would like to alter. The policy can be implemented and then alter at a later date.

Discussion was held regarding the federal vaccine mandate.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to implement the federal vaccine mandate policy subject to the supreme court decision and to alter the policy at a later date. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Bose McKinney and Evans Bond Counsel Engagement Letter – Mr. Cartwright said the town needs to have bond counsel appointed for the SRF Loan on the water plant and the bond for the electric substation. This is paid from the bond proceeds. This will be charged at an hourly rate for a total cost of approximately \$25,000.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Bose, McKinney, and Evans as bond counsel for the water project and the electric substation. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Crossroads Engineering Contract High School Drive Administration/Inspections – Mr. Cartwright said Crossroads has started working on the design for High School Drive. The town needs to engage them for administrative services and inspections. The cost is \$40,000.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the contract with Crossroads Engineering for High School Drive administrative services and inspections. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Crossroads Engineering Contract 2022 Paving Project Professional Services – Mr. Cartwright said this contract is for engineering services for the 2022 paving projects including the CCMG application. The list of streets was submitted by Street Superintendent Clark McCollum. The scope includes paving and ADA ramps. The cost is \$12,500.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Crossroads Engineering contract for 2022 paving projects. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Alpha Engineering Contract – Substation Engineering and Design – Mr. Cartwright said Alpha will be working on the design for the substation to be built on County Road 900. The quote for this work is \$325,000.

Ben Huckaba of Alpha Engineering was present and said Alpha has been working on other portions of this project and we are to the point where we need to start the design process. This substation is going to be vital to the growth of the industrial area.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the contract with Alpha Engineering for substation engineering and design. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Buening Consulting Agreement – Mr. Cartwright said the town has used Michael Buening as an on-call engineer for site reviews for several years now. He works on an as-needed basis and his rate is \$100 per hour. The contract is the same as previous with only the dates changed.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the Michael Buening Consulting Agreement. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Rooney & Co. 2021 EMS Medicaid Engagement Letter – Mr. Finley said Lisa Rooney has assisted the town for several years now getting additional Medicaid money for EMS runs. Her fee is 25% of the money she is able to obtain for the town. We do not pay until we receive the funds.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the Rooney & Co. 2021 EMS Medicaid Engagement Letter with the 25% contingency fee. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

President Simpson said Water Superintendent Bill Jones had submitted a request for an additional employee.

Councilwoman Buck asked if there had been overtime that would justify the need for a new employee. She asked what duties were not getting done.

Mr. Jones said the department has overtime every weekend as the pumps have to be read every day. Next year the water plant project is going to start, and it is going to consume most of his time, and he will not be able to work in the field as much. This employee would help with that and also allow him two crews to be working on separate projects. The State Road 252 project will also add an additional workload.

Councilwoman Rooks said she thinks we should wait until closer to construction time and see if the need exists.

Mr. Cartwright said he is in favor of this additional employee. Bill has been extremely busy with the water plant project, and it is only going to get worse as the project starts.

President Simpson recommended that we table the discussion until we have a full board.

Mr. Finley said the town is currently being audited for 2019 and 2020. Our SBOA Field Examiner, Lisa Dungan, sent an email to each council member. If anyone has any questions regarding the process they can reach out to her. The audit is scheduled to be completed by the middle of January.

Mr. Cartwright said he wanted to congratulate Town Marshall Doyne Little on obtaining a \$17,000 grant for radios. He said his manager's report expressed concern with traffic around the mall area. There will be a meeting regarding that issue on January 6, 2022. The bid opening for the water plant is set to be held on February 17, 2022.

Mr. Watson said he has received a request from LB Mold for a new tax abatement. They plan on investing \$540,000 in manufacturing equipment and adding 2 employees to their staff. The staff recommendation is for approval of the tax abatement.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a resolution for the LB Mold tax abatement. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Little said the department will have 4 officers working on New Years Eve. He asked everyone to stay safe over the weekend.

Public Comments

Hector Mercado of the Edinburgh Police Department asked when the vaccine policy would be available for the staff to see.

Councilman Piercefield said we currently have a rough draft, and the policy will continue to be altered. The council will know more after the Supreme Court Hearing on January 7, 2022.

Discussion was held about testing sites and how testing would work.

Officers Ryan Coy and Shawn Kelsay expressed issues they have with the federal vaccine mandate policy. Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks 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