

Town Council Meeting
 Monday, February 25, 2013
 6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday February 25, 2013 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, Vice President Curtis Rooks, Councilwoman Kami Ervin and President Ron Hoffman. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, and Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the minutes of the Council Meeting of February 11, 2013. Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

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

Clerk Treasurer Finley said everyone should have received two claim dockets. This is because we are updating to a new system we are trying to get everything as current as possible. He said he had signed off on all the claims in both dockets and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the public hearing petition by The Breazeale Company LLC to vacate utility easement and asked Building Commissioner Wade Watson to fill everyone in what this public hearing was about.

Mr. Watson said this included four lots from Walnut Street to South Main Street. There is a utility easement that runs north and south between the two lots in the back. The building addition that was added in 1999 was built across the utility easement. He stated that the building commissioner's office found no records of an application for authorization to build into that easement. The investigation did not reveal any utilities buried within that easement. There was at one time a drainage ditch but it has since been rerouted. He said his recommendation for the council would be to approve the vacation of the utility easement with the possible consideration of requesting from the property owner a utility easement along the back of the property in the event that the town every need to run utilities to that location.

Councilman Simpson asked if he had spoken with the property owner about the situation.

The property owner was present and stated that he agreed with vacation of the easement.

Town Attorney Huddleston asked if the notice requirements and advertising had been performed correctly.

Mr. Watson said yes, and that was all in the staff report. He said notices were given to the adjacent property owners a minimum of 10 days prior to the vacation of the easement and it was advertised in the Bartholomew, Johnson, Shelby County papers.

Councilwoman Ervin asked Wade to clarify where he recommends a new easement be placed.

Mr. Watson said he did not have a current recommendation. He said there are utilities that run along Walnut Street and utilities that run east to west on the north side of those feeding the cell tower so it would probably make since to run them along Walnut Street as well.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the easement as recommended by the building commissioner with the agreement that the town be allowed to have access at a different location to be determined at a later date. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Ordinance 2013-2, Amending Chapter 50 Municipal Sewage Works and asked Councilman Drybread to give some background on the ordinance.

Councilman Drybread said Glenn Giles went through the old ordinances and found that it was not clear where the cutoff point was for where the property owners responsibility ends and the towns begins regarding the sewage mains. He stated that he believed the revised ordinance will more clearly cover this situation in the future.

Councilman Rooks asked where exactly that cutoff for responsibility occurs.

Councilman Drybread said the town is responsible for the main and the property owner is responsible from the house to the main. He stated that the revision of the ordinance spells it all out exactly.

Councilman Rooks asked if the homeowner is responsible for any cost associated with any maintenance from the house to the main including the cost of cutting the street if necessary.

Councilman Drybread said yes and that has how it has always been. The new ordinance just clarifies what was not clear in the original ordinance.

Councilwoman asked if there was anything that indicates who the home owner would speak to if this were to occur.

Councilman Drybread said Glenn Giles would walk the homeowner through the steps necessary to fix the situation.

Councilman Rooks asked if the homeowner would have the option of hiring the town in a case that the street would need to be cut to get to the problem.

Councilman Drybread said no, the homeowner would have to hire a private contractor such as Case or Milestone.

Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-2. Councilman Simpson seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda is Ordinance 2013-3, Supplement to the Code of Ordinances. He said each year the town has to pay a company to update the ordinance books and this ordinance authorizes that to be done. He stated it is something that has been done every year since he has been on the board.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if this was something that had to be done in a hardcopy or if it could eventually be put into an electronic format.

Building Commissioner Wade Watson said currently each department is provided a hard copy but it might be something that eventually could be done electronically.

Town Attorney Huddleston said that Indiana law states that the town has to have access for any public person to view. While this does not necessarily mean a hardcopy, if it were in an electronic form there would have to be a computer portal for the public to be able to access the information.

Councilwoman Ervin said it might be possible to have a single hard copy for the public but have electronic versions for the different departments. Ordinances are much easier to search in an electronic version than searching through pages of a book. She said she believed it was definitely something to look into. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-3. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the discussion of the comprehensive plan presented by Steve Ruble and Amber Scheid of Strand Engineering. Ron stated that Strand Engineering took the towns master plan and made some suggestions on what the town can do for improvements. He handed it over to Steve for his discussion.

Steve said Strand Engineering is taking the next step of the comprehensive plan by putting together some numbers to see the feasibility of improvements to the town. There were four topics touch upon in the presentation. Those were improvements to State Road 252, gateway features, way-finding signage, and pedestrian facilities.

The first topic was improvements to State Road 252. They presented three different ways to improve 252. The first was realignment. This would involve rerouting the road between I-65 and Highway 31 to make it more of a straight shot instead of cutting through town. The estimate for the cost of this realignment was about \$8.5 million. In this scenario, the town would look for INDOT to do the realignment and bear most of that cost and relinquish the remainder of the road to the town. Strand Engineering met with INDOT and they had no interest in pursuing this scenario. Therefore, this is not feasible for the town to pursue.

The next option was a relinquishment of State Road 252 to the Town of Edinburgh. This would involve INDOT relinquishing 252 to the town and the road would be the towns to own, operate, and maintain. INDOT understands that keeping the road will result in operation maintenance costs. In this process, IDOT would not only give the road to the town but also give the town a set amount of money to repair the road back to its original state. Because counties own bridges, not towns, Johnson county would have to agree to take the relinquishment of the bridge. Johnson County said this would be feasible for the county but would need more information. The relinquishment amount for this particular scenario would be about \$500,000 for the road and \$700,000 for the bridge. INDOT also stated that the \$500,000 and \$700,000 could be leveraged toward other federal aid. The estimate after federal aid was about \$2.5 million for the road and \$3.5 million for the bridge. Strand later met with INDOT again and found that a portion of 252 lies within the urbanized area boundary for the Columbus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Therefore, the federal aid money cannot be provided by INDOT and would have to come through the Columbus MPO. Strand then met with the director of the Columbus MPO, Lawrence Brown. Lawrence indicated that the dollar amount for this relinquishment was too large for them to generate for a one time project. This creates a problem in finding where this federal money would come from. Because of this, this scenario is not feasible for the town at this time.

The third and most feasible option for improvements to 252 is a segmental approach. This would involve the town obtaining portions of the road which would make funding more easily attainable. Strand recommended pursuing a corridor plan and decide what needs to be done to improve the road and set a cohesive plan of improvements to the entire road. After that had been done, the town should then break the plan down into smaller segments that are more fundable. These funds could be obtained through Transportation Enhancement/Transportation Alternatives or programs through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

The next section of the presentation involved gateway features for the town and Steve handed it over to Amber Scheid.

Gateway features are located at main points of entry to the town. In Edinburgh those points of entry are Eisenhower from Highway 31, State Road 252 from Highway 31, and State Road 252 from I-65. Strand identified that the town currently has 5 gateway features, 4 of which are on Eisenhower and a fifth located just off I-65. Strand's recommendation was to add gateway features similar to those on Eisenhower at set points on State Road 252 from Highway 31 and from I-65. Costs of these features including engineering and construction observation would be around \$84,000.

The next section addressed way-finding signage throughout the town guiding people from main roads to specific points of interest. These points of interest included water towers, parks, sports complexes, the high school/middle school, the historic district, the public library, the senior center, town hall, the aquatic center, and the golf course. The historic district has 4 way-finding signs already in place directing motorists to that destination. The power point slides had locations where the signs could be placed as well as sample signs. The costs of this scenario would be approximately \$83,000 for the destinations mentioned.

Amber then handed it back over to Steve to talk about pedestrian facilities.

Strand looked at three options for pedestrian facilities. Those were sidewalk linkages, multi-use trails, and bicycle routes. Steve showed a map of the existing sidewalks in Edinburgh as well as

the new linkages proposed to fill in breaks in the sidewalk. If the town were to connect all the sidewalks in town it would require about 10,000 feet of sidewalk. The costs of this including ADA compliant ramps, updating crosswalks, and upgrading railroad crossings would be approximately \$474,000.

The next option was multi-use trails which could be used to link the Town of Edinburgh to the outlet mall and to the Columbus parks system. Stranded proposed a multi-use trail running along the county roadways to connect Edinburgh to the mall. Costs for this option including acquiring some property would be approximately \$560,000. This type of project would also be eligible for some federal aid money through Transportation Alternatives.

The final, lower cost, option to connect Edinburgh to the Columbus area was to create an assigned bicycle route on the existing county roadways. This option would require some coordination with Bartholomew County. Strand met with Bartholomew County and found that part of this bicycle route was already on a national bike way route. The commissioners were already on board with idea and is something that could easily be implemented. The costs of this including pavement markings and some signage would be \$9500. This would be a more affordable option for the town.

Steve and Amber thanked President Hoffman and the rest of the council for their help throughout the research process.

John Rondot requested a copy of the information and presentation from Strand Engineering to take to the Redevelopment Commission or to have Strand come back and present the information to the Redevelopment Commission. He stated the commission is looking for new areas to reach out to away from the golf course and they would like to be in connection with the comprehensive plan. He also said he believed realigning 252 would take traffic away from the downtown merchants which would not be good for the town.

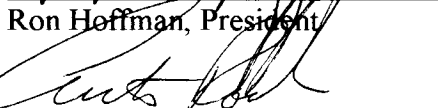
President Hoffman thanked Steve and Amber for their presentation and said the town will be working on the next step of the comprehensive plan.

Councilman Drybread said he would meet with some of the department heads to see what the town can do with its own employees to cut some of these costs.

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


Kami Ervin


Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer