

Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 28, 2022
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

Members answering roll call: Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Graham (arrived at 6:07), Councilman Jeff Simpson, and President Ryan Piercefield. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley and Town Manager Dan Cartwright. Councilwoman Debbie Buck and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston were absent.

Minutes – Council meeting of March 14, 2022. Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Claims – The council received two claim dockets in their council packets. The first was the end-of-month docket for January totaling \$397,429.66 and the second was the regular docket for the period totaling \$758,628.82. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on the claims in those dockets and handed them over to the council for approval.

President Piercefield asked about the backhoe repair. He asked what department that was for.

Mr. Cartwright said it was for the street department.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve claims as submitted. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Public Hearing – Water Rates – President Piercefield said these rates were presented at the last meeting and have been advertised. Representatives from Baker Tilly and Bose, McKinney, and Evans were present to help answer any questions.

President Piercefield opened the public hearing.

Scott Mullins of 211 Capital Drive said he used to work in municipal bonds and was curious why the town was using the SRF program rather than a traditional bond issuance.

Dennis Otten of Bose, McKinney and Evans said these bonds are being sold to the SRF program. It is a municipal bond; it is just purchased by the States Revolving Loan program. The town could go to the open market with this bond issuance but would not find an interest rate as low as the SRF. The bond is 2% and tax exempt.

With no further questions or comments from the public, President Piercefield closed the public hearing.

Ordinance 2022-2 Amending Chapter 51 Water Rates (2nd Reading) – Mr. Otten said now that the town is through the rate hearing process and the ordinance has been introduced it is up to the council now to take action on the rate ordinance. The ordinance was introduced with three alternatives so the council will also need to decide which alternative to accept.

Mitchell Eschweiler of Baker Tilly said the report has been updated to reflect the inclusion of the ARP funds. Using those funds lowers the overall loan amount to \$6.45 million. Legislation has been passed to eliminate utility receipts tax. The water utility has paid that in the past and will no longer have that expense. The big difference between the three alternatives is the funding for replacements and improvements. The lowest alternative allows for \$134,900 per year in replacements in improvements while the highest allows for \$350,000 per year. The average change to a residential bill would be as follows:

Alternative 1 – \$5.05
 Alternative 2 – \$8.53
 Alternative 3 – \$10.31

President Piercefield said a higher increase will allow the rates to last longer without having to re-evaluate.

Mr. Eschweiler said that is correct with a higher rate you will not have to worry about bond coverage as quickly.

Scott Miller of Baker Tilly said the town has spent \$270,000 historically but have a budget of \$350,000 so there are other capital needs outside of the new plant. With a higher rate it will not take as long to build up funds to start those other capital projects.

Councilman Simpson said he would be for Alternative 3. Councilwoman Graham and President Piercefield agreed.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to proceed with alternative 3 for the water rates. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-2. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-3 Water Bonds (2nd Reading) – Mr. Otten said this ordinance was presented at the last meeting and has been reviewed and approved by SRF and legal counsel. We are looking for council approval to adopt the bond ordinance.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-3. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2022-8 American Rescue Plan Fund Pledge – Mr. Cartwright said this resolution pledges the ARF funding toward the water treatment plant. The town currently has received approximately \$518,000 and are expecting another \$438,000 before the end of the year.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-8. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller said the town had a virtual pre-closing with SRF last week. That was an opportunity for them to review documentation. Everything was in order and the closing will be this week. Funds will then be available, and the project can proceed.

Resolution 2022-9 Amending Personnel Policy – Mr. Finley said this is a minor amendment to the personnel policy. In the payroll conversion it was found that our current probationary period for benefits is not compliant with ACA guidelines. This resolution changes the probationary period from 90 days to 60 days.

President Piercefield said the only question he has was the amendment specifically states the police department will follow their SOP's but does not mention the fire department.

Mr. Finley said we can strike that line completely. The probationary period is the same regardless of the department.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-9 removing the sentence related to the police department SOP's.

Wessler Engineering Wellhead Protection Agreement Amendment 1 – Mr. Cartwright said this is for services provided by Wessler for Wellhead Protection. The process is required by the state.

President Piercefield said there is a significant increase in 2026. He asked the reason for that increase.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said Wessler will be updating the plan yearly and in 2026 the final draft will have to be completed and sent to the state.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the Wellhead Protection agreement with Wessler. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow President Piercefield to sign the agreement on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Spear Corporation Pool Pipe Repair – Mr. Cartwright said during the pool renovation it was found that some major gaskets/collars were cracked. Because of the time frame to get the pool done, he approved the work to proceed but wanted to bring the issue to council as it was beyond his spending authority.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the pool repair by Spear Corporation for \$19,872.23. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

High School Scholarship – Mr. Cartwright said the town has had a hard time hiring and retaining part time employees. He had an idea to offer Edinburgh High School graduating seniors a scholarship opportunity if they work more than 200 hours for the town. It would be a \$1,000 scholarship to a college or trade school. It would be limited to 5 scholarships per year. The school would be responsible for selecting the students. He would also be making a presentation to the school.

Mr. Finley said there would probably need to be some sort of resolution drafted by Mr. Huddleston to lay out the parameter of the scholarship.

President Piercefield said he is in favor pending any issues Mr. Huddleston may find during his research.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow Mr. Cartwright to proceed with the Scholarship program pending Mr. Huddleston drafting a resolution. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

President Piercefield asked Parks Director Daniel Teter to explain the need for a new excavator at the cemetery.

Mr. Teter said the department is currently getting quotes for a new excavator, but they are trying to make the quotes comparable before submitting them to council. The funding would come from the Badger fund which currently has about \$500,000. The excavator is used on a weekly basis. The old excavator would be shifted to the street department. The department often borrows the excavator, but they often need the machine at the same time.

Councilwoman Rooks said she has heard a lot of sirens lately. She thanked the police and fire for their work.

Town Marshall Doyme Little said the department has been busy lately. There have been a lot of overdoses recently and the town lost a 32-year-old man this weekend.

President Piercefield also thanked the police and fire for their work.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said the department had their televising truck vandalized recently. The town is working with insurance to get the issue taken care of.

Planning Director Wade Watson said there are some good things coming from the planning department that he hopes to share soon.

Fire Chief John Henderson asked the council to look out for a press release soon. The department was gifted a \$19,000 piece of equipment from the American Legion. It is a Stryker Lucas Device. It is an incredible machine that will save lives. He hopes to give the council a demonstration soon.

Mr. Teter said the Little League schedule is underway and tournaments are ongoing. They already have good participation in the Easter Parade. The Spring Sale will be soon and youth club

registrations have begun. The department had 3,000 square feet of sod donated to take care of a muddy area at the sports complex. The pool project is moving along, and painting will start Thursday. The Bicentennial event planning is still going forward, and they met with the hot air balloon company last week.

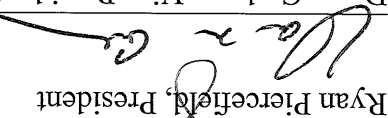
Mr. Little said the department continues to be busy. Edinburg recently participated in a Johnson County roundup that took 21 drug dealers off the streets. He and Mr. Henderson will be putting on a prom accident recreation for the school of April 20th.

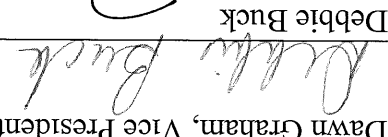
Mr. Cartwright said the police department recently hired a new officer and are at full staff. He was a previous reserve officer and will start on April 6th. The town is still having some staffing issues. His report said the street department was full, but the new hire called last minute and said he had taken a different job. He said the Bicentennial committee has secured a lumberjack group that will perform during the events. They will also have a group doing chainsaw carvings.

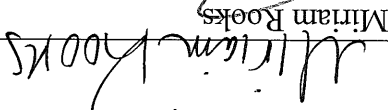
Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

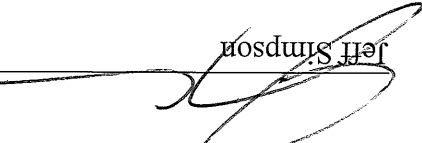
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ryan Piercefield, President

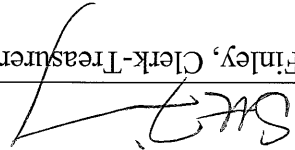

Dawn Graham, Vice President


Debbie Buck


Miriam Rooks


Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer