

**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 14, 2022**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at 104 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

**Members answering roll call:** Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Dawn Graham, Councilman Jeff Simpson, and President Ryan Piercefield. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley (via telephone) and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

**Minutes** – Council meeting of October 24, 2022 and executive meeting of November 5, 2022. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Claims** – The council received a copy of the claim docket in their council packet. The total for the docket was \$274,147.49. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on all the claims in that docket and presented them to the council for approval.

President Piercefield asked about the repair on the vac truck.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said that was repair of the PTO on the old vac truck.

President Piercefield asked about the claim to the Indiana Housing & Community Development.

Mr. Finley said that is a refund of overpayment where some received assistance with their utility bill and there was an overage on the account.

President Piercefield asked about the repair to ambulance 41.

Fire Chief John Henderson said it was a few minor repairs from damage to the ambulance.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if the water department proceeded with the purchase of the snowplow.

Mr. Jones said yes, he received quotes and he found one for half the expected prices so he proceeded with the purchase. He spoke with President Piercefield before proceeding.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve claims as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Ordinance 2022-11 Amending Chapter 75 Regarding Parking on River Road (First Reading)** – Mr. Huddleston said this was drafted per discussion two meetings ago.

Councilwoman Graham said she believes there is a mistake. This ordinance is restricting parking from 5 PM to 8 AM while people are home. The restriction was supposed to be from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Mr. Huddleston said he can correct that before the second reading.

No action was taken.

**Ordinance 2022-12 Amending Salary Ordinance 2022-7 (First Reading)** – Mr. Finley said the council is required to pass a salary ordinance by the end of the year setting salaries for the next year. The council had requested some changes and those have been provided in the draft, but it has not been fully amended. Further changes will be made before the next meeting.

No action was taken.

**Health Insurance Renewal** – Interim Town Manager Wade Watson passed out to the council some documents regarding the health insurance renewal. He said the town is looking at a 12% increase in premiums for 2023. That number is based on 3 years of claims. The staff recommendation is for the town to absorb the increase and leave the rates for the employees. It is possible to move some of the HRA funds to absorb that cost. He gave an explanation of how the HRA fund works.

Discussion was held regarding the increase on the town and the effect on the employee.

Councilman Simpson said the employees need to be informed of how this will affect the town and the employee.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve the health insurance renewal and keep the rates the same for the employee for 2023. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Water Treatment Plant Pay App #6** – Mr. Finley said this is the pay application for the water treatment plant. Upon approval, this will be submitted to SRF for approval and payment. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve water treatment plant pay app #6. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Watson said Fire Chief John Henderson's contract is set to expire on February 1, 2023. He would like to advertise that position. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to advertise for the Fire Chief position. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson said the town has received two appraisals for the rental property at the cemetery. One came in at \$1,235 per month and the other came in at \$1,250 per month. He would like to advertise that property for rental and accept applications.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to advertise the cemetery house for rent and accept applications. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson said Parks Director Daniel Teter offered the Assistant Parks Director position to the top candidate, but that person has declined. He would like to promote Michael Bryant to that position. His position would then be advertised to be filled.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to promote Michael Bryant to Assistant Parks Director. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson said the fire station floor is in place and framing will begin soon and should go up fast. The town hall addition has been drywalled and primed. The staff has had meetings regarding the substation and the transformer. The staff has been working with legal counsel to get that contract signed. The READI grant program for the Main Street extension has been awarded to the town.

Town Marshall Doyne Little said the department is currently receiving and reviewing officer applications for the additional officers.

Discussion was held regarding police department staffing.

Street Superintendent Clark McCollum said the paving is moving forward. ADA ramps on Campbell Street are underway and mill and overlay will start soon.

President Piercefield said Miller Pipeline has botched the repairs where they are replacing gas lines for Centerpoint. We need to hold them to higher standards when doing repairs.

Mr. McCollum said he has spoken with them because the repairs are terrible.

Electric Superintendent Kevin Rubush said he is waiting on material quotes for the 252 project and the golf course.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said footers have been poured for the new plant. He said he would like to obtain quotes to replace the 1997 backhoe with either a new backhoe or a mini excavator.

Discussion was held regarding the age of current equipment.

### **Public Comments**

Kyle Caraway of 124 West Thompson Street said he was present to discuss the alley next to his house. He passed out to the council a packet. The pamphlet showed images of the alley, his house, and a google aerial image. He also showed damages that have happened due to semi-trucks using the alley to reach the post office. It is not always the same driver and new drivers who haven't used the alley before struggle to get into the alley. Mr. Watson said the town has discussed having an engineer review the alley to possibly widen it. He believes this would be an astronomical cost due to the current infrastructure in the area. He showed pictures of the damage to the alley and his driveway. He has been quoted \$10,000 to repair his driveway and he refused to fix it because these semis will destroy it again.

Councilman Simpson said he believes this is more of a post office matter than a town matter.

Mr. Caraway said he would like the town to restrict commercial traffic from using the alley.

Mr. Watson said he believes the council decided to have a discussion with the post office and ask them not to use the alley out of courtesy to the homeowner and that they would look at having the entrance of the alley reconfigured. There has not been a discussion to widen the alley to his knowledge. The biggest issue is the steep slope of the alley. He would like to have an engineer review the issue and give a recommendation.

Discussion was held regarding access to the post office from Walnut Street.

Mr. Caraway said the post office has refused to work with him on the issue and refuse to repair any damage. He is not upset with the council; he is more upset with the post office. He is just looking for help.

John Roberts of 700 North Park Drive said he received a letter regarding his leaves being in the road. He went out and re-raked them back into the yard, but he feels singled out as there are multiple houses in the area with leaves in the road. Robert Overton told him the leaves had to be on the curb. He believes that is a bit vague. Is that the curb of the street or the grass next to the curb.

Mr. McCollum said the hose on the leaf vac is only so long. We try to get people to keep them out of the gutter because of stormwater. They need to be close enough to reach.

Mr. Overton said this arose from a stormwater issue from IDEM. The gutter at the edge of the street is part of the stormwater system. In an effort to understand the ordinances, he researched the issue and how to administer the program. Leaves are not supposed to block storm drains, including the gutter. As a starting point, he printed 10 letters and posted them to the first 10 houses he saw with leaves in the gutter. To add to the complexity, leaves also should not block the sidewalk for ADA compliance.


Councilwoman Graham said she does not think we can tell our citizens to bring the leaves to the street so that the vac truck can reach them, and then ticket them when they put them in the street.

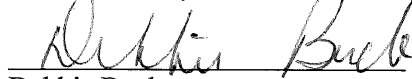
President Piercefield said he believes this should have been thought about before the letters were sent out. This only happens a couple weeks out of the year. The town needs to clarify the notice on how and where to put leaves out for pickup.

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

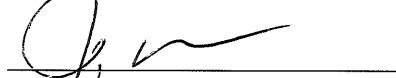
#### EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

  
Ryan Piercefield, President


  
Dawn Graham, Vice President

  
Debbie Buck

  
Miriam Rooks

  
Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:

  
Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer