

Town Council Meeting
 Monday, May 13, 2013
 6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday May 13, 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 were the minutes of the Council Meeting of April 22, 2013 and the Executive Meeting of April 22, 2013. Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve both minutes as submitted. Councilman Simpson 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 the claim docket for the past period in their packet. He said he had looked over all the claims, signed off on them, and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the Public Hearing for the Amos Hill Grain Elevator demolition CDBG Grant.

Donna Anderson from Kenna Consulting presented handouts to the council explaining the OCRA Clearance Grant. She stated that this was the second public hearing for the OCRA grant. She explained that the town would be applying for a grant through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to demolish the Amos Hill grain elevator. The town will be submitting two applications, both to OCRA. However, one will be the CFF Grant which the town had originally planned on applying for and the other is through the disaster recovery two (DR 2) fund. This public hearing will cover both applications. The CFF Grant only has \$150,000 available and will probably only fund one project. The town is requesting \$127,000. The application is due by May 31 and the award announcement will be August 30. The DR 2 Grant is due by June 28 and the town will be requesting the same amount. The total funds available for this grant is \$945,000. She said she believed there were six other applications submitted for the grants. Having two chances at a grant will greatly increase the possibility of receiving the grant. She then asked for any comments or concerns the public may have.

President Hoffman asked Building Commissioner Wade Watson if Bill West had submitted anything to him.

Mr. Watson said Bill had presented a personal letter and also was responsible for the petition that was organized.

Councilman Drybread said semi-trucks back into the building on the curve and it is difficult for drivers to see because the grain elevator blocks their view. It is a dangerous railway crossing.

Councilman Rooks asked if records were kept of accidents on that particular corner.

Mrs. Anderson said she believed there had been 11 reported accidents there since 2004.

John Rondot asked if Mrs. Anderson had personally submitted any grant applications to OCRA and also what she believed our percentages were for actually obtaining the grant.

Mrs. Anderson said she had written grant applications to OCRA in the past. As far as chances of obtaining the grants she said it was hard to say on the CFF grant since there are about six other applicants and she is not sure what projects they are applying for and how much money they are requesting. The town has a better chance at receiving the money from the DR 2 Grant.

Mr. Rondot ask the council what the fall back plan is if the grant application does not get accepted.

President Hoffman said the council has not discussed that and will not know until they have an answer about the grant. He said the council would work with the building commissioner to discuss other options.

Councilman Drybread said that Mr. Watson has already done some work with contractors so there are already some ideas about how to finance the project if the town does not receive grant money.

Mr. Watson added that the CFF Grant is done on a point system with a total of 700 points and each project has to submit their work and points are awarded based on the work. The project with the highest number of points receives the grant. The town has more than enough points to qualify to apply for the grant but we do not know what projects the other applicants are trying to fund. He also said that any of the citizens that could submit a letter explaining the need for the demolition of the building would greatly help in the application process. Those letters would need to be in before the application deadline on May 31.

Mrs. Anderson thanked everyone for their time and their comments.

Council Comments:

Councilman Drybread said there will be some new software training for the utility office and the office will be closed a few hours throughout the week but hopefully it will not interfere too much with people trying to pay their bills. The hours the office will be closed will be posted on the door.

Councilman Ervin asked if there was a way to better advertise the new text system.

Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley said there are flyers and posters advertising in the utility office and in the back offices as well but the more advertising we do will allow more people to become a part of the service.

President Hoffman said it was advertised in the Tri-County.

Councilman Drybread wanted to be sure people knew it is of no charge to the people of the town. With the system the town can notify citizens if there is a road closing, a water main break, or in an emergency situation.

President Hoffman explained the features of the system for those who had not heard about the service.

President Hoffman had a lease for the new Timbergate vehicle and asked Councilman Drybread to explain.

Councilman Drybread said it is a lease for a new vehicle for Wayne Gibbs at Timbergate. He said it is a Hybrid Ford Fusion.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if it was replacing a different vehicle.

Councilman Drybread said no, there has never been a vehicle for Timbergate's use. A town vehicle was never used when the course was under previous management. All other department heads have a town vehicle and now that the town is managing the course again, the department head should also have a town vehicle.

President Hoffman said Mr. Gibbs had put over 100,000 miles on his personal car. He will still have to pay for his personal miles on the town vehicle.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the lease. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

Wade Watson gave an update related to tax abatements. This is the time when business who have previously been given tax abatements do their annual renewal. He said he and Scott Finley have been investigating those abatements and they had an appointment to meet with Bartholomew County to better understand abatements. After that he said they would present information to the council regarding the current abatements in the next council meeting.

Nate Dillingham said the deadline for those was May 15.

Mr. Watson said he believed the town could allow extensions. They are due in his office by the 15th and the council has up to 42 days to review them.

Mr. Dillingham said he was told they had to be filed with Bartholomew County by May 15.

Mr. Watson said when he had spoke with Bartholomew County earlier that day they had not mentioned that but he would call in the morning and find out for sure.

Mr. Dillingham said he would hate to lose that abatement.

Town Attorney Huddleston said he believed that Mr. Dillingham was correct and they did need to be filed by May 15 and the town should get a copy as well.

Mr. Dillingham asked how we were going to meet that deadline.

Mr. Watson said he would have to talk to Bartholomew County first thing in the morning.

President Hoffman asked Mr. Watson to check on that and if the council has to hold a special meeting they can.

Town Attorney Huddleston said the council should not need a special meeting. The CF-1's simply need to be filed at the with the county. There is no need for a vote.

Mr. Dillingham said it needed to be signed by the council.

President Hoffman said it needs to be signed but only by the council president.

Councilman Rooks asked if they could make a motion to allow President Hoffman to sign off on the abatements. He said in the past the council has voted to approve the abatements.

President Hoffman said the reason we are going through this is because in the past the abatements have simply been rubber stamped and not been thoroughly examined. He said because he is not comfortable with doing it that way, he asked Mr. Watson to become involved in the abatement process with the CF-1's so he could present to the council what he had found.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if the council needed to make a motion to give President Hoffman authorization to sign.

Town Attorney Huddleston said they can just to cover all basis but he would look at the CF-1's after the meeting.

Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to authorize President Hoffman to sign on behalf of the council any required signatures needed for the CF-1. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

Departmental Comments:

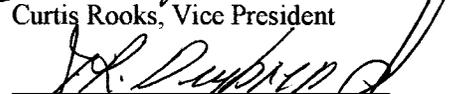
Town Marshall Mann reported that all the cameras throughout the town are now up and running. They have been getting some good quality photos from them and there is a panoramic camera that faces the high school now and he is sure will one day pay off.

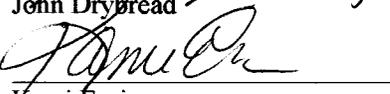
Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

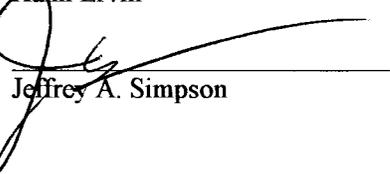
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ron Hoffman, President

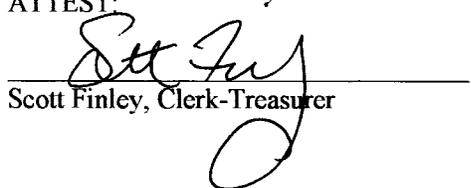

Curtis Rooks, Vice President


John Drybread


Kami Ervin


Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer