

Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 27, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, February 27, 2023, 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.

President Piercefield welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the first meeting in the new council chambers.

Members answering roll call: Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Dawn Graham and President Ryan Piercefield. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, Interim Town Manager Wade Watson, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

Minutes – Council meeting of February 13, 2023 and executive meeting of February 22, 2023. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Claims – The council received three claim dockets in their council packet. The docket totals were as follows:

- Regular docket – \$1,077,527.50
- November end-of-month - \$102,880.72
- December end-of-month - \$217,291.60

Mr. Finley said he had signed off on all the claims in those dockets and presented them to council for approval.

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

Ordinance 2023-4 Amendment to Fee Schedule – Mr. Finley said we amend the fee schedule on an annual basis or as changes need made. In this amendment there were changes to the police department fees, the parks department fees, and adjustments based on the new solicitors ordinance.

President Piercefield asked if we typically bill the \$500 listed under the fire department for extrication.

Mr. Finley said he would have to ask Interim Fire Chief Chuck Ridpath or Med-Bill. To his knowledge that fee has never been charged.

President Piercefield said he would like to see that removed.

Interim Town Manager Wade Watson said Parks Director Daniel Teter has asked that this be pushed through as his leagues are starting and he cannot start charging new fees until they have been advertised for 30 days.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to waive the first reading of ordinance 2023-4 and consider it for approval. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-4 removing the fee for extrication in Section 6a, item 6. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2023-5 Authorizing Issuance of Electric Bonds (First Reading) – Mr. Huddleston said this is the project related to expanding and enhancing the electric infrastructure. This project will be covered by a bond. The town has partnered with Bose, McKinney, and Evans as bond counsel. This has been in the works for a few months. He said he has reviewed the ordinance and sees no issues. This starts the process of obtaining the bond.

No action was taken on Ordinance 2023-5.

Conflict of Interest Forms Approval – Mr. Finley said these are annual forms required by the state when a conflict of interest could arise. There are three forms before the council for approval. One for himself as his father occasionally does HVAC work for the town, one for Councilman Simpson as he does vehicle maintenance and painting for the town, and one for Chris Taylor, a fire fighter for the town who also works for a company that provides service to the town.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest form for Scott Finley. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest form for Jeff Simpson. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Councilman Simpson abstained. Motion carried.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest form for Chris Taylor. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2023-6 Execution of INDOT Agreements – Mr. Watson said this authorizes the town manager or street superintendent to be the authorized signer on the 2022-2 Community Crossings Grant.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-6. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Electric Easement Acquisition Process – Mr. Watson said this is in preparation for the conversion of overhead lines to underground lines on State Road 252. Crossroads has been approved to obtain those rights-of-way. The following resolution allows the Council President or Town Manager to sign the documents related to that process. The council was presented a list of easements and the estimated costs.

Resolution 2023-7 Acquisition of Utility Easements – Mr. Watson said this was drafted by Mr. Huddleston based on the process stated above.

Mr. Huddleston said the council has already approved a budget for the acquisitions. If the amount exceeds that budget it must come back before council.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-7. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Position Appointments for Wastewater Superintendent, Assistant Street Superintendent and 2 Full Time Firefighters – Mr. Watson said there are several open positions that need to be filled by council. He has submitted the staff recommendation for those positions to the council.

- Wastewater Superintendent – Councilman Simpson made a motion to appoint Robert Jessie Sr. as Wastewater Superintendent. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.
- Assistant Street Superintendent – Councilman Simpson made a motion to appoint Alec Burton as Assistant Street Superintendent. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.
- 2 Firefighters – A shift and B shift – Councilman Simpson made a motion to appoint Richard Monson and Bailey Gregory to the two open full time fire positions. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Purchase of Real Property – Mr. Watson said the council has discussed the purchase of the property adjacent to the sports complex. The BOT process is an option to acquire that land and build a new parking lot on that property. He would like authorization to explore the BOT process for this property. The only initial cost would be advertising.

Councilman Simpson said he would be abstaining from discussion or voting as his family member owns the land.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to proceed with exploring the BOT process for the property adjacent to the sports complex. President Piercefield seconded. Motion tied with Councilwoman Rooks and Councilwoman Graham voting nay and Councilman Simpson abstaining. No tie-breaker vote was held and therefore the motion died.

Request to Vacate Public Way – Building and Zoning Official Robert Overton said there is a section of Pleasant Street that has existed across Morris Street for the purpose of developing town in that direction. A large piece of property was purchased and an industrial use was put in that area. The neighbors have been using that structure for a garage and accessory structure. We now have an

application to vacate that section and split it between the two property owners. This will be before the council in the near future.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to review the request to vacate a public way. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Purchase of AEDs – Town Marshall Doyne Little said the town has received a donation from the American Legion for the purchase of new AEDs. He discussed the funding options for the remainder of the funding. The public safety fund would be a good option for this project. He showed a current AED that is no longer functioning. He said he will be back before the council for the final purchase of the AEDs. There will be a total of 27 AEDs.

President Piercefield asked if we were going to have the same brand throughout the town.

Town Marshall Little said that would be the goal so that all the pads were interchangeable.

Other Business

Mr. Watson said Nellie Wilson was present tonight. She has asked for relief of a utility bill that occurred from December 27th to January 27th. It was determined by her insurance that it was caused by a malfunction of the water softener system likely caused by a power surge. The system went into a continuous cycle of filling and emptying through the water meter and directly into the drain. The department has no precedent for this kind of issue. We have in the past relieved sewer bills for leaks that occurred that did not go down the drain and therefore were not treated through the wastewater facility. In this case, the water came through the water meter and was discharged through the drain and therefore treated. The bill is approximately \$1,000.

President Piercefield said this can and will happen again and he thinks the council needs to put a standing order in place on how this will operate. He said the council will review the situation and get back with her with an answer.

Departmental Comments


Mr. Overton gave a report of condition at 115 East Main Cross Street. The building adjacent to the alley is in disrepair. He gave a history of the building. He has dealt with the owner numerous times himself. The building is an essential part of the downtown architecture. He asked that the council allow the staff have a professional come in a look at the structure of the building.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to review options for 115 East Main Cross Street. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

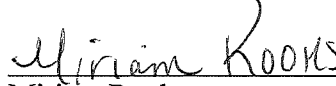
Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

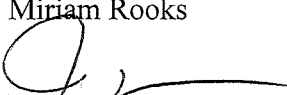
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ryan Piercefield, President


Dawn Graham, Vice President

Debbie Buck


Miriam Rooks


Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer