

Town Council Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

Vice President Dawn Graham called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes – Council meeting minutes of October 23, 2023.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

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

- READI Grant Milestone Docket – \$978,580.93
- Regular Docket - \$623,796.05

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

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

Ordinance 2023-16 Amending Chapter 74 Main Street Extension Stop and Speed Limit Signs (First Reading) – Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said this ordinance adds requested signage to the Main Street Extension.

Councilwoman Graham said she believes the speed limit should be higher than 30 in that area.

Councilwoman Buck agreed.

Town Marshall Dooyne Little said he has no issues with it being higher. The speed limit on the county road in that area is 50 mph.

Mr. Huddleston said he would make that change before the second reading.

Ordinance 2023-17 Fire Prevention Ordinance (First Reading) – Mr. Huddleston said this ordinance was started in 2021 and relates to the Knox Box program for the fire department. Previously there was a law requiring these ordinances be reviewed by the State Fire Prevention Commission. That law has been repealed and therefore no longer requires that review.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2023-17 and consider it for approval. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2023-19 IMPA Commissioner Appointment – Town Manager Kevin McGinnis said the council made a motion at the last meeting to appoint Kevin Rubush as the Town's IMPA Commissioner. This resolution memorializes that motion so we can submit the information to IMPA.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-19. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Piercefield Conflict of Interest Form – Dawn Graham said she would like to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to table the Piercefield conflict of Interest Form. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Wessler Invoice 42762 for Water Treatment Plant – Mr. Finley said this invoice is for engineering services related to oversight of the water treatment plant project. The total of the invoice is \$46,124.66. Upon approval, this invoice will be submitted to SRF for review, approval, and payment.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice 42762. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Fire Department Plaque Presentation – Interim Fire Chief Chuck Ridpath said he would like to present a plaque on behalf of the station to Bob Underwood. Mr. Underwood donated several items to the new fire station including appliances and flooring. He presented the plaque to Mr. Underwood and thanked him for all his assistance.

The council thanked Mr. Underwood for his contributions.

Electric River Crossing Wire Purchase – Electric Superintendent Steve Clark said the department has an existing river crossing in the park, but it will be undersized with the future development on that side of the river. This new crossing would go on the south side of the bridge. If he does not lock in the quote presented to council, it will be 52 weeks or more before he can get the wire. This will be delivered in February.

Councilwoman Rooks asked about funding for this purchase.

Mr. Finley said the department has cash to fund this purchase but there will be further discussion regarding the electric department finances in the near future.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the wire purchase for the river crossing from United Utility Supply for \$70,200. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Wastewater Grit Auger Repair – Wastewater Superintendent Bob Jessie said they have an auger at the plant that is about to fail. To replace the part will be around \$100,000. Mitchell and Stark, the company that originally installed the grit auger, suggested removing the top and sending it out to be machined. The cost would be \$24,000 with parts and labor. The repair should last 3 years and give the department time to plan for the large cost of replacing the auger.

Councilwoman Rooks said the quote is an estimate. What happens if the actual cost is over \$24,000.

Mr. Finley said the council can approve the repair up to \$24,000 and anything in excess would need to come back to the council for approval.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the grit auger repair by Mitchell and Stark for \$24,000. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

2024 Police Vehicle Purchase – Town Marshall Little said he received quotes from Fletcher and Jon Jones. The department budget was approved with an allowance for two new vehicles. The low quote for the vehicles is \$42,740 each from Fletcher. He will come back to the council at a later date for the lights for the vehicles.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the purchase of two police vehicles from Fletcher for \$42,740 each. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Street Department Dump Truck Quotes – Street Superintendent Clark McCollum said their 2002 Chevy 3500 has reached the end of its life. In his opinion, it is no longer safe to use with a salt bed and plow. He received 5 quotes and all of them are in stock and ready for delivery. He said he believes a 4500 or 5500 would be better for the department.

Discussion was held regarding the differences in the quotes.

Mr. Finley said the plan is to get the truck ordered and take possession of and pay for the truck from the 2024 budget.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the purchase of the Clark Ram 4500 from Fletcher for \$110,090. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Fire Department New Medic Approval – Interim Chief Ridpath said Casey Taylor recently obtained his Paramedic certification. He asked for approval to move him to Paramedic at \$28 per hour.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to move Casey Taylor to a Paramedic at \$28 per hour. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation BOT – Mr. McGinnis said he is asking for approval to allow GM Development to submit a design for the Parks and Recreation BOT project. There will be no fees during the scoping process. They will come up with specifications and details of the project and submit them to the town.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow GM Development to submit specifications and designs for the Parks and Recreation BOT project. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried with Councilman Simpson abstaining.

Timbergate Vehicle Discussion – *Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to table the Timbergate Vehicle Discussion. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

Wessler Water Plant Contract Addendum #6 – Mr. McGinnis said this was discussed at previous council meetings. Because of the delays in the construction of the water treatment plant, Wessler's agreement needs to be amended to allow them to continue oversight of the project. This agreement will be on an hourly basis not to exceed \$100,000. There is still over \$300,000 left in the project contingency.

Discussion was held regarding the oversight of the project and the reason for the delays.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Wessler Water Plant Contract Addendum #6. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Change Order #4 – Mr. McGinnis said the total increase for change order 4 is \$99,794. The change order is for additional site fencing, paving, landscape stone, pipe bollards, additional outlets, and window security grids.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said most of these things are items that were missed during the original design. The fencing is due to the possible street vacate next to the plant.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve water treatment plant change order #4. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Vice President Dawn Graham to sign change order #4 on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Johnson County Cumulative Bridge Fund Petition – Mr. McGinnis said in the 1950's the county established a cumulative bridge fund to help fund bridge maintenance in the county. The fund was eliminated last year. Some of the municipalities in the county have started a petition to re-establish the cumulative bridge fund. They are asking the Town of Edinburgh to sign this petition. Edinburgh has no bridges that would be covered under the fund and only has two small culverts. He asked for direction from the council on whether to sign the petition or not.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to deny signing the cumulative bridge fund petition. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Ecosystems Grant for Blue River Dam – Mr. McGinnis said Ecosystems has procured a grant on behalf of the town for the removal of the dam at no cost to the town. There was talk about repairing the dam, but that process would be quite involved and very costly. It is unlikely that even if the town wanted to rebuild the dam that we could get permission from the Department of Natural Resources. If we were to remove the dam using the grant available, they would keep the structures for us to use to build a monument.

Councilman Simpson said he has always been in support of saving the dam, but it is in a bad state. He does not believe we should put the tax burden on the citizens to repair the dam.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to finalize the agreement with Ecosystems. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

South Main Street Force Main Relocation – Mr. McGinnis said while we were building the South Main Street extension, we found a force main that is now only about 2 feet underground. The main needs to be lowered to prevent freezing. During the design of the Main Street project, we had some change in leadership at the Wastewater department and this fell through the cracks. If it had been caught, we still would have had to relocate the main, it just would have been done during the other project. We have received 2 quotes, and it may need to go through the formal bid process.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to review the quotes for the force main relocation. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Departmental Comments

Mr. McGinnis gave an update on his Town Manager's report. He has had several meetings regarding the influx of people anticipated to be in the area for the 2024 solar eclipse. The school system will be on E-learning that day. He plans to keep the town open so that we have staff on site to assist. He said he has some plans for the fire department staffing that he will discuss at a later date.

Discussion was held regarding hours for fire employees.

Town Marshall Little and Officer Darren Coy introduced XTA, the new K9 unit. She is a dual purpose K9 trained in tracking and narcotics. They gave a brief explanation of the training she and Officer Koors went through.

Town Marshall Little said he will also be presenting a quote for software to edit body cam footage. They have been receiving a lot of Freedom of Information requests that we have not been able to release because there is something in the footage that cannot be released, such as a child in the background. The software allows us to edit out those non-releasable items.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said basketball leagues have started and there is another 5k this weekend. After the 5k, the community meal will be held at the high school. Holiday of Lights planning is underway and carriage ride tickets are on sale.

Building and Zoning Official Robert Overton said he gave the council a copy of the Garbage and Trash ordinance to review. There is some old verbiage that he believes needs to be removed. He would like Mr. Huddleston to review his edits to the ordinance.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to review Mr. Overton's edits of the garbage and trash ordinance. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Overton said he has given the council information on two unsafe buildings in the community that he has exhausted all his efforts on. He would like them to be turned over to legal. One is the garage across from the high school that is in terrible shape and the other is at the end of Thompson Street that has been on the list as a meth lab for over 10 years.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to review the properties submitted by Mr. Overton. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.


Public Comments

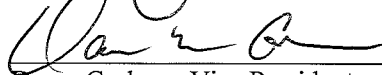
Norman Barnett of Columbus, Indiana said his family owns the land in the middle of the river just east of the dam. He said he would like to propose that the town use that land for a monument for the dam if the dam is removed. The island is also not annexed, and they would be open to going through that process as well. The island runs from the dam all the way to Irwin Park and is about 5 to 7 acres.

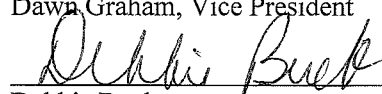
The council thanked Mr. Barnett for offering that land for that purpose.


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

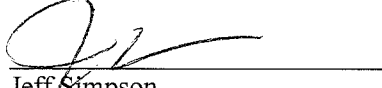
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ryan Piercefield, President


Dawn Graham, Vice President


Debbie Buck


Miriam Rooks


Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer