

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

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, November 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.

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

**Minutes** – Council meeting minutes of November 13, 2023 and executive meeting of November 15, 2023.

*Councilwoman Rooks 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:

- August End-of-Month Docket – \$802,540.90
- September End-of-Month Docket - \$630,854.57
- Regular Docket - \$1,039,160.91

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.*

**Public Hearing – Request for Annexation** – President Piercefield said this request is for property on the northwest part of town across the river.

President Piercefield opened the public hearing.

Bryan Tuohy of 50 S Meridian St, Indianapolis said he was present to discuss the second segment of proposed annexation. The first was approved in September. The property in discussion is 126 acres owned by the Wertz and King families. If this segment is approved, there will be one more annexation request for the remainder of the property.

Councilwoman Graham asked if it included the parcel with the farmhouse.

Mr. Tuohy said yes, it does.

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

**Public Hearing – Additional Appropriations** – Mr. Finley said due to some payroll increases and some increases in professional services, the town General fund and MVH fund are going to be short appropriations for the rest of the year. The General fund will be about \$55,000 short and the MVH fund will be about \$25,000 short. The ordinance on the agenda increases the appropriations balance of those two funds.

President Piercefield opened the public hearing for the additional appropriations request.

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

**Ordinance 2023-18 Additional Appropriations (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)** – *Councilwoman Graham made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2023-18 and consider it for approval. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-18. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Ordinance 2023-16 Amending Chapter 74 Main Street Extension Stop and Speed Limit Signs (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)** – Mr. Huddleston said he amended the ordinance since the last meeting to reflect the speed limit going from 30 mph to 40 mph.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-16. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2023-20 – 2024 Council Meeting Schedule** – Mr. Finley said this resolution lays out the dates for the 2024 council meetings. The schedule is every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday with a few exceptions for Holidays and the end of the year.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-20. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2023-21 – 2024 Holiday Schedule** – Mr. Finley said this resolution lays out the observed Holiday schedule for the town. The Holidays are the same as 2023 with changes only for the dates.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-21. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Employee Health Insurance Renewal** – Mr. Finley said the renewal date for the town's health insurance is January 1<sup>st</sup>. With the assistance of our Agent of Record, Larry Mayfield, we obtained some quotes from other providers. The town is currently with SIHO and has been for over 20 years. The renewal from SIHO came back with no increase at all. The rates for the employees and the town as well as the coverages would be identical to 2023. Mr. Finley explained the other quotes to the council. He said the staff recommendation was to renew with SIHO for 2024.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the 2024 Health Insurance Renewal with SIHO. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Water Treatment Pay Application #18** – Mr. Finley said this should be one of the last few pay applications we have on the water treatment project. The total for this pay app is \$398,966.16. Upon it approval it will be sent to SRF for review, approval, and payment.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve water treatment pay application #18. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

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

**Piercefield Conflict of Interest Form** – Mr. Huddleston said Ryan Piercefield has requested to lease property from the town for his business. Because of his position, this is a conflict of interest. This requires a form to be approved by council and submitted to the state. The next step would be to go through the formal process of leasing town property. It would require appraisals and public advertisements.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest form for Ryan Piercefield. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried with President Piercefield abstaining.*

**Rumpke Route Schedule Change** – Mr. McGinnis said Rumpke is changing their schedule and eliminating Friday pickups. The Friday pickups will be changed to one of the other four days. They will notify all residents that will be affected.

**Police Body Camera Quotes** – Town Marshall Doyne Little said the current body cams the department has were donated. They have been great for the department, but we are getting more and more Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Somethings must be redacted for those requests, and we cannot currently do that. Updated body cams and editing software will help with this issue. He has received quotes from multiple vendors including Provision and Axon. He recommends Provision as they are cheaper, have unlimited storage, and will replace the hardware after 30 months. It also includes the redaction license.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of 16 body cameras from Provision for \$49,200. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Police Overtime for Exigent Circumstances** – Mr. Little said he would like to make sure he has all officers on duty for the solar eclipse in April. This will be mandatory overtime.

Discussion was held regarding communications during the solar eclipse event.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft an ordinance for police overtime in exigent circumstances. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.*

**New Digger Derrick Truck Quote** – Electric Superintendent Steve Clark said he received quotes for a new digger derrick truck. The lead time on this truck is 3 years. This would replace the 1986 truck. The truck is in bad shape and needs to be replaced. The low quote is from Altec for \$427,611.00.

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the purchase of the digger truck from Altec subject to review of the purchase process by Mr. Huddleston. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Alpha Engineering – Electric Rate Discussion** – Ben Huckaba of Alpha Engineering presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the financial requirements of the department with the upcoming bond issuance. Baker Tilly has suggested a 12% rate increase. The average increase for a residential customer would be between \$15 and \$20 per month. It has been almost 5 years since the last rate increase and the wholesale cost of power has increased drastically. Inflation has also made costs in the department increase. Baker Tilly is recommending a bond anticipation note while we get long-term financing in place for the new substation.

Mr. Clark said the biggest increase will be to the industrial customers.

Discussion was held regarding demand and energy costs.

Discussion was held regarding development in the industrial area.

**Ecosystems Grant for Blue River Dam Removal** – Mr. McGinnis said the dam is continuing to degrade. Mr. Huddleston is reviewing the agreement with Ecosystems. We need to get this process wrapped up so we can secure the grant.

**Main Street Force Main Extension** – Mr. McGinnis said he explained this issue at the last meeting. We have received 2 quotes under \$150,000.

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the bid from Milestone subject to review and having a contract drafted by Mr. Huddleston. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**115 East Main Cross Building** – Mr. Huddleston said the town has proceeded with litigation on the owner of 115 East Main Cross Street. The property owner had a set amount of time to abate the issue. That time period has passed and there is another hearing tomorrow. If the council would like to take action to secure the building, there are certain steps that have to be taken to declare that an emergency exists and identify potential contractors.

Mr. McGinnis explained the two options: temporarily shore up the building or demolish the building. He explained the potential issues with shoring up the building. He said the demolition will also be a complex process.

Mr. Huddleston said regardless of how the town proceeds, the building does not become property of the town. This is simply an action to abate an emergency situation.

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to declare an emergency at 115 East Main Cross Street due to the condition of the building. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.*

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to invite bids from Force Construction Company, Inc., Denny Companies, and Casey Bertram. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Other Business**

Councilwoman Rooks thanked the police department for their work on Black Friday at the mall.

President Piercefield thanked the water department for their work repairing a water main on the day before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Finley said in regard to that work on the day before Thanksgiving, he asked if the council wanted to bypass the policy for overtime for hours worked and pay out overtime hours to employees who worked on that emergency. He said it will only apply to those who were on PTO that week due to the holidays as the other employees would already be receiving overtime.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to pay overtime rates for employees that worked on the water main break emergency on 11/22/23. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Departmental Comments**

Town Marshall Little said there were around 13,000 people at the mall for Black Friday. Traffic was backed up for miles on I-65. There were 3 officers present and were able to keep everything in order.

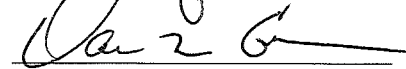
Water Superintendent Bill Jones thanked the council for approving the overtime during the water main break. During that work, a valve broke while trying to cut the water. He will be getting quotes to replace that valve and a few others. The water plant should be up and running very soon.

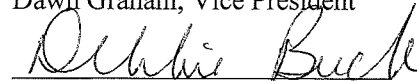
Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread said a student from Columbus has built and installed "Little Library" boxes and installed them in town. The Senior Moments trip now has 43 people signed up to go to Holland, Michigan. The Holiday of Lights planning is still underway, and the carriage rides have almost sold out. She said she wanted to express her frustration with the 115 East Main Cross building. She said she spoke up about this building back on January 23<sup>rd</sup> when there were only 12 bricks missing and maybe the building could have been salvageable at that time. She has reached out to Indiana Landmarks to try to find money to save the building but has so far been unsuccessful.

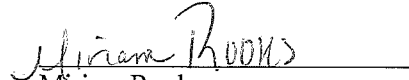
*Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

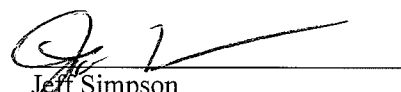
**EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

  
Ryan Piercefield, President

  
Dawn Graham, Vice President

  
Debbie Buck

  
Miriam Rooks

  
Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:

  
Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer