

**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, April 22, 2024**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

**Members answering roll call:** Councilman Michael Bryant, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, and Council President Ryan Piercefield.

Also present were Clerk Treasurer Rhonda Barrett, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

**Minutes** – Minutes of Council Meeting April 10, 2024, and Executive Meeting April 13, 2024

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve April 10, 2024, council meeting minutes and April 13, 2024, executive meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.*

**Claims** – Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett presented three claim dockets for approval, January 2024 end of month claim docket in the amount of \$862,229.94, February 2024 end of month claim docket in the amount of \$486,281.74, and April 22, 2024, claim docket in the amount of \$825,738.14.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the claim dockets as presented. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Public Hearing 801 E Thompson Street** – Council President Ryan Piercefield opened the Public Hearing regarding property violations at 801 East Thompson Street.

Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston presented three exhibits to the Council members.

Exhibit A is the notice that was delivered that contains all the violations of the subject property - 801 East Thompson Street.

Exhibit B is where Police Chief Doyne Little served the notice (Exhibit A) to the property owner.

Exhibit C is (a) a picture of the notice being placed on the door of the subject property and (b) a second picture that is a close up of exhibit C.

Property owner, Norma Merchant, addressed the council. She stated that she has been working on cleaning up the property and provided explanations regarding the condition of the house.

The council discussed options regarding the property, including affirming the order, rescinding the order, or modifying the order to allow the property owner more time to address the issues. After deliberation, the council decided to modify the current order, extending the deadline for compliance until May 13th, and requested documentation and proof of progress from the property owner with the planning and zoning officials inspecting the contractual phase.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to modify exhibit A to allow property owner until May 13th to comply with everything in the order to include producing a certificate and pictures. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**American Legion Memorial Day Proclamation** – Matt Ervin, spoke on behalf of the American Legion- this is an annual proclamation approved each year declaring Memorial Day, American Legion Memorial Day to be read by a representative of the Town during the Memorial Day service at the Cemetery.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the American Legion Memorial Day proclamation for May 27th, 2024. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2024-5 Appointing Acting Town Manager** – Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston presented Resolution 2024-5 Appointing Acting Town Manager to allow Council President Ryan Piercefield to serve as acting town manager due to the resignation of Kevin McGinnis, State statute does not permit President Piercefield to be compensated for his time while serving as Interim Town Manager.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 to appoint President Piercefield as acting Town Manager. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Advertise for the Position of Town Manager** - Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston addressed the

council on the need to advertise for a Town Manager and how they would like to proceed. The council discussed advertising the town manager position through electronic formats and setting a deadline for applications to be due by May 31st.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to advertise for a Town Manager until May 31, 2024, on electronic formats. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2024-6 Authorizing Special Purchase of Street Sweeper** – Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston presented Resolution 2024-6 and discussed the April 10, 2024, meeting presentation from Street Superintendent Clark McCollum concerning the replacement of the current Street Sweeper. Attorney Huddleston stated that Superintendent McCollum has located a used Street Sweeper in Chicago for sale from Butcher Municipal through Sourcewell (a cooperative purchasing contract for local Government) that allows the bypass of public bidding due to a reduced-price savings of \$50,000. This resolution authorizes Superintendent McCollum to buy this piece of equipment. A discussion was held allowing Superintendent McCollum to go to Chicago to inspect the equipment before purchasing.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-6 Authorizing the Special Purchase of Street Sweeper. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2024-7 Police Take Home Vehicles** - Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston presented Resolution 2024-7 allowing police department employees to use town vehicles for personal use under certain conditions outlined by Police Chief Doyme Little.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-7 Police Take Home Vehicles. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.*

**Ordinance 2024-6 Amending Electric Rates (1st Reading)** – Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston presented Ordinance 2024-6 which contains the modified language presented by Electric Superintendent Steve Clark at the April 10, 2024, meeting. Attorney Huddleston stated that this is the first reading and cannot be waived, the second reading will be at the May 13, 2024, meeting where the Ordinance can be passed.

**Introduction of Ordinance 2024-7 Annexing Real Estate** – Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston introduced Ordinance 2024-7 Annexing Real Estate that will have the 1<sup>st</sup> reading at a Public Hearing at the next council meeting on May 13, 2024. Attorney Huddleston said that Planning Director Julie Young wanted to make the council aware of this third annexation request in a series of annexations along US 31. Attorney Huddleston stated that this annexation request includes approximately 170 acres, the public hearing, and the adoption of the fiscal plan for this has been advertised for the May 13, 2024, meeting.

**TIF Report Filing** – Clerk Treasurer Rhonda Barrett presented the TIF Report filing after making the corrections noted at the April 10, 2024, meeting, and per state statute informed the council that the report had been filed on Gateway on April 11, 2024.

**Renewal of 252 INDOT Construction Agreement for Water Department** – Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett presented the renewal of the 252 INDOT Construction Agreement for the Water Department water line replacement. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed the request from Bill Read with INDOT on the need to renew the contract due to the previously signed agreement approved in 2021 being more than six months old. The new agreement amount has increased to \$200,168.88 due to an increase in revenue for the Water Department compared to 2021 revenue.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones commented that it is the same contract that was signed in 2021 with an increase from \$160,000 to \$201,000 to cover our 10% share towards the \$3.5 million dollars in water lines to be installed.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion for the renewal of 252 INDOT Construction Agreement for Water Department. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Council President Piercefield to sign the renewal of 252 INDOT Construction Agreement for Water Department. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.*

**Wessler Invoice 43943 for Water Treatment Plant** – Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett presented Wessler invoice 43943 in the amount of \$34,318.87 for council approval. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this invoice is a revised invoice that replaces the invoice approved for payment at the April 10, 2024, meeting that she had presented in error.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Invoice 43943 from Wessler for the Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett asked for a motion to allow Council President Piercefield to sign the invoice for payment.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Council President Ryan Piercefield to sign Invoice 43943 from Wessler. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2024-4 Shelby County Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption** – Planning Director Julie Young presented the 2024-4 Shelby County Hazard Mitigation Plan and commented on its similarity to the Johnson County Plan that was adopted two years ago. Planning Director Young informed the council that the Shelby County EMA coordinator had planned to be in attendance tonight but was unable to make it. After a brief discussion Resolution 2024-4 was tabled until the next meeting.

**Bid Award for 12kV UG Line Under Big Blue River and SR 252** – Electric Superintendent Steve Clark presented the recommendation and a letter from Alpha Engineering concerning the Bid Award for the 12kV UG Line Under Big Blue River and SR 252 and a summary of the project bid. Superintendent Clark gave an overview of the project location and the dual purpose of the project. Superintendent Clark stated that the bid is for installation and boring, as the materials have already been purchased by the Town. Superintendent Clark said that Alpha Engineering is recommending Hoosier Edison project bid.

After some further discussion, Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston recommended a motion to approve the bid subject to the draft of the construction agreement being approved.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Hoosier Edison bid subject to the draft of the construction agreement being approved. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

Town Attorney Huddleston asked about the timing of the project in conjunction with the removal of the dam. Superintendent Clark said that if the contract is approved at the next meeting, it should probably take less than a month to complete the project as long as there are no issues with the bore going under the river.

**Service Connection Fee Discussion** – Electric Superintendent Steve Clark referred to previous discussions and the Ordinance that had been approved for new development with the developer paying the cost. Superintendent Clark said this is an extension of that to recover cost of modifications and new services outside of large developments that require a large cost to install infrastructure for a single customer.

Council President Ryan Piercefield discussed with the Council that Superintendent Clark is trying to make the Electric Department and the town more efficient than it has been over the last twenty plus years, by reducing expenses and lost revenues by establishing a baseline.

Superintendent Clark stated that the other Town utilities have a connection fee for the materials used to provide service and that is the intent to help offset expenses and does not transfer ownership of the materials. Superintendent Clark is requesting the Council to allow Attorney Huddleston to proceed to draft a document related to the service connection fee.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to have Dustin research this and make a recommendation. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Rate Class 4 Discussion** – Electric Superintendent Steve Clark discussed Customers under the Rate Class 4 which is a 3 Phase Service under 300 KVA. Superintendent Clark stated that the Ordinance states the customers in the class should be charged a demand, but they have never been charged a demand even though it is in the Ordinance.

Council President Ryan Piercefield asked about the estimated monthly revenue loss. Superintendent Clark said that the estimated loss is approximately as high as \$33,000 per month.

Superintendent Clark said that through conversation with some long-standing employees, we have never billed on demand, throughout the years it was added to the rate ordinance but was never put into place to charge for it. Superintendent Clark would like the Council to allow him to start billing for this and to send a letter to the affected customers letting them know that they have been underbilled for a long time, but moving forward they will be seeing a demand charge on their bills.

Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said that because the Ordinance is already in place, Steve would need a motion to authorize him to issue the notice letter that we will be following the Ordinance.

President Piercefield stated that this is not an Ordinance that we have created, it has been here for a long time, but never enforced, so we will be following what has been in the Ordinance all this time.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to allow Superintendent Clark to proceed with drafting a notice to the affected customers. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Other Business**

Councilwoman Sweet thanked Superintendent McCollum for the tour of the Street Department and commended him on his department. She also thanked Superintendent Clark for being patient with her on her many questions this week concerning electric rates and charges.

Councilwoman Rooks thanked Superintendent Jones for the tour of the new Water Treatment Plant and was very impressed with the state-of-the-art equipment and Bill's knowledge of the plant, she encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Open House on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Water Plant.

Council President Piercefield said that he had conversation with Jim Arthur from Casey Bertram, and they started doing some work today on the demolition of the 115 E Main Cross building, with plans to start from the top and go down. President Piercefield said that he had a meeting with superintendents today and discussed upcoming projects and that the Water Department has a large project that will need to be addressed. He said that all of the Superintendents are doing a great job.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett discussed the report she included in the council packets with upcoming additional appropriations that are needed for the park property BOT purchase, the Wastewater temporary loan, two salaries that are paid out of the Johnson County Edit fund, and the ice-skating rink for Christmas that is being paid for by a Festival Country grant. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett said she would get the numbers to the Council.

Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said he will be at the ball diamonds for a tournament this weekend and complimented Parks Director Daniel Teter on the fantastic job that the Parks Department does on parking access, and how clean the grounds are at the tournaments.

### **Departmental Comments**

Police Chief Doyne Little discussed needing approval to surplus two 2014 Dodge Chargers that have been replaced by the two new Dodge Durango's.

Attorney Huddleston said that he would look to see if they would need to specify those two items as the Council had already approved to use GovDeals for the other items and would have that information at the May 13, 2024, meeting.

Chief Little commented that he had two Officers that graduated on Friday, and he now has a full staff.

Planning Director Julie Young discussed a draft rezoning for the annexation properties that she had distributed to the emergency services and department heads to start reviewing. Director Young also invited the council and public to a Comprehensive Plan Big Ideas Open House at 5:00 p.m. on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the High School Cafeteria.

Parks Superintendent Daniel Teter thanked Superintendent Clark for the quick service in restoring power to Irwin Park Campers just before tonight's meeting.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said that May 22, 2024, is the Open House for the Water Treatment Plant. Superintendent Jones also said that he is going to get some contractor estimates to get an idea of what would need to be done to repair the water main crossing at the river.

President Piercefield asked Water Superintendent Jones to send the pictures he has of the water main crossing at the river that needs addressed.

Community Center Director Sarabeth Drybread reminded everyone of early voting hours. Sarabeth briefly discussed the REDI Program which is Regional Economic Acceleration Development Initiative Program. She said that it is a statewide program that encompasses about 7-9 different state agencies, that we were a part of the first program which was the Main Street Extension down to County Road 900 to the new fire station. She said that REDI 2.0 has just been announced and we are working on an Arts and Culture. There is a \$65 million Lily endowment that we are applying for with the REDI Program and she would like to talk with any of the council members that might be interested in the arts and culture side of the grant funding, which could include what to do with the Dam limestone once its removed, funding for a cultural events venue and other ideas.

Public Comments


Debbie Vaughan Timbergate resident asked about the Mike Tetrick property that was supposed to have the fence removed that had been discussed approximately one year and half ago.

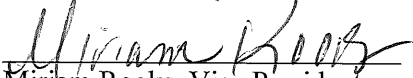
Attorney Huddleston said that is a top priority for the new Planning Director.


Adjourn

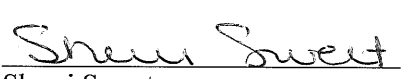
*There being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Meeting adjourned.*

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

  
Ryan Piercefield, President

  
Miriam Rooks, Vice President

  
Debbie Buck

  
Sherri Sweet

  
Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

  
Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer