

Special Council Meeting
Monday, July 28, 2025
7:07PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a special session on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 7:07PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

Council President Ryan Piercefield called the meeting to order.

Council President Ryan Piercefield stated that due to a technical difficulty the meeting will not be livestreamed tonight.

Members in Attendance: Council President Ryan Piercefield, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett, Town Manager John Myers, and multiple department heads to present 2026 proposed budgets.

Budget Workshop- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated Scott Finley with Baker Tilly would give a presentation over Senate Enrolled Act 1 Property Tax Reform and the Town's estimated revenues.

Scott Finley with Baker Tilly discussed upcoming changes to homestead property tax deductions and credits which all affect the Net Assessed Value. Mr. Finley discussed net assessed values and gross assessed values. Mr. Finley also discussed that the business personal property tax floor has been eliminated as of January 1, 2025, and the de minimis exemption of \$2 million dollars will take effect in 2027. Mr. Finley discussed the Town's circuit breaker tax caps, which is approximately 1/3 of the levy that is not received.

Mr. Finley also discussed local income tax and the Town's options for adopting a local income tax in 2027. Currently the town's portion of local income tax received for 2025 between certified shares, public safety and edit is \$3.169 million with the biggest portion being certified shares of \$2.6 million. In 2028 all of those lit taxes are going to go away, currently the LIT rates for Johnson, Bartholomew, and Shelby are 1.4%, 1.75% and 1.6%, with the new legislation that goes into effect the LIT structure is going to be replaced with a new LIT where the county service lit can be adopted up to 1.2%, a fire protection and EMS rate that is not the same as public safety, can be adopted up to .4%. If all three counties were to adopt the fire/Ems LIT, Edinburgh would get some from each county because it does get dispersed to fire territories, fire districts, and municipal fire departments in those counties. With Edinburgh being a municipality over 3500, we can adopt a LIT rate up to 1.2% of the adjusted gross income of the town of Edinburgh. There is also the option for municipalities with a population between 3500 and 7000 to be treated as a municipality under 3500 and stay with the county rate that is based on the county adjusted gross income, but if the county decides to adopt the 1.2% the county could keep up to 75% of the municipality under 3500 distributions and used that for themselves. The decision to adopt cannot be made until after January 1, 2027, and will need to be renewed annually.

Mr. Finley presented the revenues brought in for 2024, expected revenues for 2025, revenues that have been brought in so far for 2025, and estimated revenues for 2026.

Discussion was held regarding Park and Rec concession revenues being less in 2026 and how much revenue the Town will lose next year due to the Senate Enrolled Act 1 Property Tax Reform.

Mr. Finley discussed the CCDF funds being reestablished and brought up to the max \$0.05.

Clerk-treasurer Barrett discussed the increase in general funds which includes an additional \$50,000 transfer from NRO Fire and EMS to cover the payment on the new fire truck and also estimated revenue on the Walnut Street Fire Station rental property.

Mr. Finley discussed the option of making payment in lieu of taxes from the town utility departments as an additional source of revenue to offset taxes. Discussion was held regarding doing a study to determine how much money could be transferred from the utilities to the General Fund in lieu of taxes since the utilities do not pay property taxes.

Discussion was held regarding options to pay for trash service.

Mr. Finley stated that there is typically money left from the budget that was not spent which rolls over into the cash balance.

Discussion was held regarding the annual staff pay increase and for budgeting purposes, the departments are using a 4% increase for 2026 the same as was done in 2025.

Fire and EMS

Fire Chief Justin Lollar presented the Fire and EMS budget.

Chief Lollar discussed wages and benefits for full-time and part-time employees. Chief Lollar stated that money is starting to come in at a higher rate of return due to the more advanced care they can provide now.

Chief Lollar explained each line-item change.

Discussion was held regarding the department's radios reaching the end of their life and how much money has been spent on repairs. Chief Lollar discussed potentially using Public Safety Funds to purchase new radios.

The capital outlays decreased to \$60,000 for 2026 since they did not have to purchase a staff vehicle like they did in 2025.

Chief Lollar discussed all the donations the department has received since he became Fire Chief.

Discussion was held regarding the state of the current ambulances and replacing one in the future.

The proposed 2026 Fire and EMS budget was \$1,648,745.00.

Police

Police Chief Doyne Little presented the Police budget.

Chief Little discussed each line-item change.

Discussion was held regarding IT costs and the services the company, Van Ausdall, provides. Chief Little stated that there are certain people who cannot get into the police department computers because of HIPAA.

Discussion was held regarding IT options.

Chief Little discussed the problems they are having with the department's current Dodge police vehicles.

Discussion was held regarding the rising costs of uniforms.

The proposed 2026 Police budget was \$2,064,031.00.

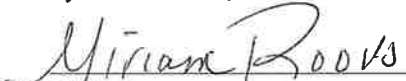
Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.


These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Edinburgh Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffOyWphtcPehlL-R5g> for as long as this media is supported.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

Ryan Piercefield, President


Miriam Rooks, Vice President

Debbie Buck


Sherri Sweet


Michael Bryant

ATTEST:


Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer