

**Town Council Meeting  
Monday, December 8, 2025  
6:00PM**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

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

**Roll Call-** Council President Ryan Piercefield, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, and Councilwoman Sherri Sweet.

Councilwoman Debbie Buck and Councilman Michael Bryant were absent.

Also present were Town Manager John Myers, Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

**Minutes-** Council Meeting November 24, 2025, and Executive Meeting November 24, 2025

Councilwoman Rooks thanked Accounts Receivable Emily Cravens and Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett for their great work on the Council minutes.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the November 24, 2025, Council Meeting minutes and the November 24, 2025, Executive Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Claims-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented one claim docket in the amount of \$770,893.20. All claims have been reviewed and signed.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the claim docket as presented in the amount \$770,893.20. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Public Hearing Additional Appropriation-** Council President Piercefield opened the public hearing for Additional Appropriation. With no comments, President Piercefield closed the public hearing.

**Resolution 2025-15 Additional Appropriation-** Clerk-Treasurer stated that the appropriations are for \$73,000 in the general fund, \$1,000 in the K-9 NRO fund, \$15,500 in the fire and rescue donation fund, and \$54,000 in the NRO downtown plaza fund. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there were a couple accounts in the general fund that were under budgeted and appropriations are needed to be able to spend the NRO funds where donations were received.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15 Additional Appropriation. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Ordinance 2025-20 Amending Salary Ordinance (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this is an introduction and includes the approved wage increases for 2026 and raises the caps on the wages to cover potential wage increases through 2028.

**Ordinance 2025-21 Transfer of Appropriations (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this is an introduction and the ordinance which allows transfers between line items within funds to cover shortages of appropriations.

**Interlocal Agreement Between Town of Edinburgh and Blue River Township Concerning Emergency Services**- Attorney Huddleston stated that this agreement is for the Town of Edinburgh to provide primary ambulatory services for all Blue River Township and backup standby fire services for Amity. The Blue River Township agreed to pay the Town \$300,000 which is memorialized by the Interlocal Agreement. Following this agreement is a resolution to use these funds to purchase an ambulance if the Town approves the agreement.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Town of Edinburgh and Blue River Township Concerning Emergency Services subject to Blue River Townships approval. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Resolution 2025-16 Approving Interlocal Agreement Between Town of Edinburgh and Blue River Township Concerning Emergency Services**- Attorney Huddleston stated that this is related to the prior discussed item, but the agreement requires a resolution to be attached to the agreement that was approved.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-16 Approving Interlocal Agreement Between Town of Edinburgh and Blue River Township. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Resolution 2025-17 Authorizing Special Purchase of Ambulance for the Edinburgh Fire Department**- Attorney Huddleston stated that Indiana Code allows the Town to purchase this as a special purchase as it is being purchased at a discounted price. Attorney Huddleston stated that Fire Chief Justin Lollar provided him with a discounted quote from Sourcewell that the Town has purchased from before.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-17 Authorizing Special Purchase of Ambulance for the Edinburgh Fire Department. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Fire Department Donation**- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented a \$5,000 donation from Johnson County REMC operation round up to be used for ambulance equipment.

*Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve the Fire Department Donation in the amount of \$5,000. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**K-9 Fund Donation-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented a \$2,276 donation from First Financial Bank.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the K-9 Fund Donation in the amount of \$2,276. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

Council President Piercefield stated that he has a \$1,500 donation from the proprietor of the Shell gas station for the K-9 Fund as well and he will get that donation to Chief Little.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the K-9 Fund Donation in the amount of \$1,500. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Wessler Invoice #48444 for Water Treatment Plant-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Wessler Invoice #48444 in the amount of \$5,469 for the water treatment plant. Water Superintendent Bill Jones has reviewed and approved the invoice.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice #48444 for Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$5,469. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Wessler Invoice #48444 for Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**HEA 1392 FIT & CVET Distribution-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that a new law went into effect July 1, 2025, changing how the distribution of the FIT and CVET funds are allocated. Previously the county split it up based on our levy allocations, now the Town Council has the option to allocate these funds however they prefer. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett recommended continuing allocating the funds as they have been doing in previous years. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Town receives approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 a year and 49% goes to the general fund, 20% to the MVH fund, 23% to the Parks fund, 7% for the bond fund, and 1% to CCDF.

*Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve the funds to be distributed as a percentage wise as previously done. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Electricom Invoices #2507774B and #2508255-** Town Manager John Myers presented two Electricom invoices totaling \$80,616.62 from where they did underground utility work on State Road 252. Mr. Myers stated that the Town still has the retained percentage of \$79,209.10. Mr. Myers stated that the bores under 252 are not as deep as they are supposed to be and he is waiting on the contractor's engineer to accept the bores at the depth they are at before he would recommend releasing the retained funds.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve Electricom Invoices #2507774B and #2508255 totaling \$80,616.62. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Electricom Invoices #2507774B and #2508255. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Baker Tilly Wastewater & Stormwater Rate Studies & Water & Sewer Capacity Fees-**

Mitchell Eschweiler with Baker Tilly stated the council should have received three different reports in their packets and the first one that he was going to discuss is the capacity calculations for both the water and sewage works.

Mr. Eschweiler stated that they were asked to look at developing new capacity fees for water and sewage works. Mr. Eschweiler stated that the Town is currently not billing this rate for new development so this rate would be for new development to pay for both water and sewer as they come onto the Town's system. Capacity fees are a way for the town to collect revenue from new customers when they come on to the system to help offset the cost of future service expansion. Mr. Eschweiler stated that the Town's water and wastewater utilities would receive that fee to be set aside in a fund for when the Town has future capacity-related projects to avoid passing on the cost to existing customers.

Mr. Eschweiler stated that one way of calculating capacity fees is the equity buying method which looks at existing assets, backing out any contributions of grants that were received by the sewage works then dividing that by the number of equivalent dwelling units (residential homes). Mr. Eschweiler stated that EDUs for larger commercial or industrial users are based on their flow that they would add to the system. Mr. Eschweiler discussed the wastewater treatment plant's capital assets. Mr. Eschweiler stated that you could calculate a maximum capacity fee under the equity buying method of \$3,309 but the Council does not have to adopt the maximum.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed the incremental cost and future projects needed to serve new customers. There are a couple of potential projects including expanding the collection system and expanding the wastewater treatment plant which would add approximately 1.5 million gallons. The incremental cost calculation would be approximately \$1,353.

Mr. Eschweiler stated that with both methods, the town could also adopt a hybrid approach, which looks at both historical and future costs for the system and adds them together. Under a hybrid approach, the maximum you could charge would be \$4,662, or round down to \$4,600.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed the same approaches for the water treatment utility. Mr. Eschweiler stated that using the equity buying method the capacity fee would be \$1,410, the incremental cost method would be \$2,790, and adding the two methods together would be \$4,200 maximum capacity fee for the water treatment utility. Mr. Eschweiler discussed capacity fee amounts that surrounding communities charge.

Mr. Eschweiler stated that if the town were to want to consider implementing either water or sewer capacity fees or both, then they would need to decide at what level they are comfortable with adding on to new development and making sure that you're continuing to see the

development you want to see and not deterring some of that new customer growth on your system.

Mr. Eschweiler stated that they were also asked to look at the Town's stormwater utility rate. The biggest cause of the proposed increase in stormwater is capital improvements. Mr. Eschweiler discussed the stormwater utility's cash balances since 2021. Mr. Eschweiler discussed how other communities charge stormwater fees, Edinburgh is currently charging \$3 per edu for a residential customer, anywhere under \$10 is the average for stormwater rates.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed the information that was provided to Baker Tilly for future potential stormwater utility projects. The biggest proposed capital improvement was identified as stormwater phase two Memorial Drive having an estimated cost of \$3 million.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed alternatives to funding the project by implementing changes with cash on hand over a five-year period, a three-year period or by issuing debt over a 20-year period through a bond issuance. Mr. Eschweiler discussed revenue requirements needed to support operations and paying for capital improvements.

Mr. Eschweiler stated that for cash on hand funding over a five-year period, it would require an increase of \$9.84 for a stormwater fee per EDU of \$12.84, over a three-year period it would require an increase of \$17.76 for a stormwater fee per EDU of \$20.76, and that with a debt issuance funding over a 20-year period would be the lowest alternative financing, that would require an increase of \$4.85 for a stormwater fee per EDU of \$7.85. With debt issuance the \$4.85 increase could be phased in over a couple of years based on bond issuance requirements.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed the quicker the Town wants to start future potential projects, the higher the rate raise would be.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed the decline in the sewage works cash balances in the last 1-2 years and discussion was held regarding a loan the sewage works had taken out from the Rainy-Day fund.

Mr. Eschweiler stated the wastewater and stormwater rates were last adjusted in 2016 and the Town is currently on the low end of user rates compared to other communities. Mr. Eschweiler stated that the wastewater utility currently does not have any outstanding bonds. Mr. Eschweiler stated that the total cash balance for the sewage works at the end of 2024 was \$884,000, which included the loan amount from the Rainy-Day Fund. The minimum recommendation for the operating fund is to have at least two months to pay for operations. Mr. Eschweiler stated that it takes a minimum of two months to change the rates.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed the capital improvement plan provided to Baker Tilly starting in 2025 through 2029. Mr. Eschweiler stated that over this period there is approximately \$25 million in projects. The biggest need is shown in 2026 for wastewater treatment plant equipment replacement with an estimated cost of \$11.6 million. Mr. Eschweiler stated that there are also improvements needed for the lift stations with an estimated cost of \$500,026. Mr. Eschweiler

discussed an annual allowance for infrastructure upgrades and in 2029, wastewater plant expansion estimate of \$10 million and the 800 North Line upgrade of \$1.5 million. Mr. Eschweiler stated that some of the improvements include expanding the wastewater treatment plant, but because of the size of the project a bond would need to be issued to do equipment replacement upgrades. Mr. Eschweiler discussed trying to fund the projects with cash. Mr. Eschweiler discussed operation maintenance costs going through the sewage works on an annual basis.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed rate replacements and revenue requirements to fund the entire capital improvement plan provided. Mr. Eschweiler stated the biggest projects in 2026 would be done through an issuance of debt. Mr. Eschweiler discussed a proposed rate increase to support current operations, the implementation of the bond issue, and phasing in multiple years. Mr. Eschweiler discussed allowances for operation and maintenance, allowance for replacements and improvements, and net revenue requirements.

Mr. Eschweiler discussed the three phases and what would happen in each one if the entire capital improvement plan were funded with a bond issuance. Current operations (2025) would be a proposed 13% increase of \$5.34; phase one (2026) would be a 17% increase of \$7.86; phase two (2027) would be a 13% increase of \$7.19, and phase three (2028) would be a 14% increase of \$8.34.

Discussion was held regarding whether Driftwood Utilities could help offset some of the costs if the Council goes forward with them as discussed at a previous Council meeting. Discussion was held regarding stormwater costs and charges.

Town Manager John Myers noted that the Town's tax rate is decreasing by 0.09%, which should help offset this a little bit for taxpayers.

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming SB1 deficit increase.

### **Other Business**

Councilwoman Sweet stated she is looking forward to the Holiday of Lights and Wreaths Across America this weekend.

Town Manager John Myers stated that he spoke with the postmaster regarding the semi-truck traffic in the alley that the Council received a concern about from a resident. Mr. Myers stated that the postmaster informed him that they average two semis a day and that the Town is part of a route which is why they have a semi. The postmaster stated that it would be very difficult for their trucks for them to get in off Walnut Street, but he would check into it. Mr. Myers stated that he has walked down the alley multiple times and has watched semis enter it with no issues.

Council President Piercefield stated that he does not believe semis should be allowed in alleys.

Street Superintendent Sean Barrett stated that alleys are not designed for semi traffic and that they have fixed the alley a couple times.

Council President Piercefield stated the intention is to only close the alley from semi-truck and tractor traffic, not all traffic. President Piercefield stated that how the post office conducts their business through semi-trucks is not the Town's problem. President Piercefield discussed previous times the Town has attempted to reach out to the postmaster regarding this alley.

Discussion was held regarding the ordinance's verbiage being updated, Attorney Huddleston stated that it has been updated and is ready to be presented to the Council at a future Council meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the alley being repaved recently.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she is working on updating the 2026 fee schedule and hopes to have it on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Police Chief Doyne Little thanked Shell gas station, First Financial, and the whole community for their support with the K-9 project.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated that there are safety concerns regarding the outdoor Holiday of Lights festival being held with such low temperatures expected. Director Teter stated they are looking at moving some of the activities to the elementary school. The Council agreed they were okay with the activities being moved indoors due to the expected weather.

Director Teter complimented his team for the work that they have been doing updating decorations with new rope lighting.

Cemetery Superintendent Stan Brown stated that after months of work, the Wreaths Across America ceremony is this weekend. The truck with the wreaths arrived today. Superintendent Brown stated that there will be Sergeants from the US Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, US Space Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Superintendent Brown stated that there are at least two local news media's attending the event. Superintendent Brown stated that he was honored and thankful for the support for them to be able to do this.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that demolition has started on 201 West Main Cross and that they are approximately halfway done. Director Drybread stated that information regarding the Holiday of Lights to vendors and the public will be sent out tomorrow regarding activities being moved indoors. Director Drybread stated that the chili supper is still at the Presbyterian Church.

Planning Director Julie Young stated that she has been working on ordinances for her new software and found a tree ordinance that was passed to get a grant in the past. Director Young stated that she would like to send changes that need to be made to Attorney Huddleston.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to amend the tree ordinance. Council President Piercefield seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

### **Public Comments**

Christina Riley 701 S Holland Street invited the council and public to attend the Holiday of Lights event on Saturday. Ms. Riley stated that she wants the council to understand what the town has done, many people have worked in actually building and painting to bring these games together, approximately 30 community members have donated items for prizes, thousands of dollars in products have been donated to have this wonderful event for the kids and it's important that the town council knows the community. Ms. Riley thanked Edinburgh Main Street members and Town employees who have assisted.

### **Adjourn**

*Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

*The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffQyWphtcPehlL-R5g> for as long as this media is supported.*

### **EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Piercefield, President

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Miriam Rooks, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Buck

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherri Sweet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

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Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer