

Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2026
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, February 23, 2026, 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, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

Councilwoman Debbie Buck was absent.

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

Minutes- Council Meeting February 9, 2026

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the February 9, 2026, Council Meeting minutes. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Council President Piercefield abstained.

Executive Meeting February 11, 2026

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the February 11, 2026, Executive Meeting minutes. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented one claim docket in the amount of \$593,144.62. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this increased from \$586,395.33 due to added claims. All claims have been reviewed and signed.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the claim docket as presented in the amount of \$593,144.62. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2026-3 Amending Ordinance 2025-15 and Annexing of Real Estate (2nd Reading)-

Attorney Huddleston stated that this was introduced at the previous Council meeting. Attorney Huddleston stated that this corrects the legal description of the ordinance already passed previously by the Council regarding 7995 S US 31.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-3 Amending Ordinance 2025-15 and Annexing Real Estate. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Interlocal Agreement Concerning the Sale of Personal Property- Attorney Huddleston stated that Water Superintendent Bill Jones requested to sell some personal property, as is with no warranty, for \$500 to the City of Cambridge. Attorney Huddleston stated that this document memorializes that.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement Concerning the Sale of Personal Property. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Interlocal Agreement Concerning the Sale of Personal Property. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Bill of Sale for Purchased Property- Attorney Huddleston stated that this is the document that approves to execute the actual sale to City of Cambridge.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Bill of Sale for Purchased Property. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Bill of Sale for Purchased Property. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Creation of Firefighter Merit Board- Attorney Huddleston stated that part of the 1977 Fund process was creating a Pension Board and a Merit Board for the police department and a Pension Board for the fire department. Attorney Huddleston stated that the statute did not require a Merit Board to be made for the fire department. Attorney Huddleston stated that at the last Firefighter Pension Board meeting, it was discussed that if there were any hiring or disciplinary issues within the fire department it would go to the Council. Attorney Huddleston stated that the Council has the option to create a Fire Merit Board for them to handle those matters instead of the Council.

Discussion was held regarding whether other Towns/Cities have a Fire Merit Board.

Discussion was held regarding whether the Fire Merit Board has worth.

Council President Piercefield recommended the creation of a Fire Merit Board. President Piercefield stated that it does distinguish us as a more professional department.

Discussion was held regarding how many members would serve on the board.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to draft the necessary documentation to create a Firefighter Merit Board. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Correct Stenographer Error in January 12, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that on the January 12, 2026, Council Meeting minutes it was noted that the January 12, 2026, Council Meeting minutes were approved when it should have stated that the December 29, 2025, Council Meeting minutes were approved. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she needs approval to notate on that document to write in the correct date.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Correct Stenographer Error in January 12, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. Council President Piercefield seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Sweet abstained.

Baker Tilly CIP/FSP- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Scott Finley with Baker Tilly gave a presentation over this at the previous Council meeting and a scope of work was given to the Council.

Councilwoman Sweet stated that she did research regarding this and Baker Tilly was highly recommended.

Council President Piercefield stated that he believes these services are going to be invaluable.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Baker Tilly CIP/FSP scope of work. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Baker Tilly CIP/FSP scope of work. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Request to Use NRO Plaza Funds for Downtown Plaza Project- Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated this is to use the funds they have received for the plaza project. Director Drybread stated that they have a payout they need to do for the disposal of the foundation that the street department helped with.

Discussion was held regarding the remaining steps until the actual construction began.

Director Drybread stated that they have been talking to Crossroads, HWC, and Glue-lam Erectors over the last few months. Director Drybread stated that she has received a few quotes from HWC, but Crossroads wants to work with a landscape architect to get a site plan before they will give any quotes.

Councilwoman Sweet asked Director Drybread what her inclination was.

Director Drybread stated that she would like to speak to a couple of others before a decision is made. Director Drybread stated that the Town has worked with HWC before and they gave recommendations for a landscape architect, but the number was a lot higher than expected. Director Drybread stated that she is working on other grants for potential funding and the Redevelopment Commission wants to allocate some of the funds.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she will need to advertise for additional appropriations to spend the money.

Discussion was held regarding the only quote for the backfill. Director Drybread stated that they have asked what they can fill the area with, but the contractors do not know until a site plan is in place. Director Drybread stated that Glue-lam Erectors will be digging down at least three feet so there is no reason to fill the whole area when some of it is going to be dug out in the future.

Discussion was held regarding whether Director Drybread was looking into other engineers.

Town Manager John Myers stated that he asked Director Drybread to see if the Town could just put dirt back in there, but no one will give an exact answer without a site plan.

Council President Piercefield stated that he does not know why they could not put dirt back in it and that it is a safety factor as well.

Cemetery Superintendent Stan Brown stated that they have plenty of dirt and can do it.

President Piercefield stated that by the time constructions starts, the dirt will have settled.

Discussion was held regarding compacting the dirt with equipment.

Discussion was held regarding the time frame for this project.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she will start the additional appropriation process.

Well Cleaning Quote- Water Superintendent Bill Jones discussed the history of the Town's wells. Superintendent Jones stated that Peerless Midwest has been the Town's well company since 2016. Superintendent Jones stated that Peerless Midwest has suggested that if well five is not cleaned and worked on now, that within a few years it will no longer work. Superintendent Jones presented a quote of \$34,300 to pull the wheel out and clean the well. Superintendent Jones stated that they will also take the pump itself and the motor with them and rebuild it. Superintendent Jones stated that currently it is working fine so that should be a minimal charge. Superintendent Jones stated that it will take approximately a month to a month and a half to get on the schedule for Peerless Midwest to come out.

Discussion was held regarding whether SRF funds could be used for this.

Superintendent Jones stated that they have been fighting a main break somewhere and have not been able to locate it. Superintendent Jones stated that they have been pumping approximately 1,000,000 gallons a day and their average is approximately 650,000 gallons a day.

Discussion was held regarding whether the well cleaning was budgeted for.

Discussion was held regarding how many wells there are and how they work together.

Superintendent Jones stated that it is scary when you are down to one well. Superintendent Jones stated that the Town has a backup plan with Eastern Bartholomew in the event there is ever an emergency issue, water can be turned on to the Town coming from them.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Well Cleaning Quote in the amount of \$34,300 from Peerless Midwest. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Well Cleaning Quote. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Circuit Breaker Incremental Pay Schedule- Electric Manager Kevin Killinger stated that at the previous Council meeting, the Council approved the purchase of equipment for the industrial substation for approximately \$270,000. Mr. Killinger stated that there is a 30% down payment and the remaining 70% is due upon delivery that needs to be approved.

Discussion was held regarding escalation costs.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the 30% down payment to Brownstown Electric Supply in reference to the Circuit Breaker Incremental Pay Schedule. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Daupler Contract Renewal- Electric Manager Kevin Killinger stated that they would like to renew their contract with Daupler for their on-call services for three years instead of annually. Mr. Killinger stated that Daupler has offered a 5% discount for a three-year term renewal. Mr. Killinger stated that Mr. Huddleston has reviewed.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve the 3 year Daupler Contract Renewal. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Daupler Contract Renewal. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Utility Locator Position- Electric Manager Kevin Killinger presented an option to add another position to the Town for a utility locator. Mr. Killinger stated that they would like feedback from the Council and if they choose to pursue this, it will require a change to the salary ordinance, purchase of a vehicle, and software. Mr. Killinger stated that the staff feels that this would be a more efficient way of conducting business. Mr. Killinger stated that currently for a line locate, a few people will visit the property to locate electric, water, and wastewater lines. Mr. Killinger stated that the goal is to hire one person that is trained to locate all three utilities for the Town. Mr. Killinger discussed what the position would do in their slow time.

Discussion was held regarding whether this person would be on call 24/7. Mr. Killinger stated that after hours emergency locates would still go to the on-call person for each utility and this person would not be expected to be on call 24/7.

Discussion was held regarding whether there is a time frame for setting this position. Mr. Killinger stated that they prefer to move as quickly as possible to be able to start training someone.

Discussion was held regarding the position being posted internally for two weeks prior to being sent out to the public to apply.

Town Manager John Myers stated that they started looking into this in the fall of 2025. Mr. Myers stated that Water Superintendent Bill Jones reached out to different companies to get a quote, but nobody would commit to it. Mr. Myers stated that it would be well over a couple hundred thousand dollars so the Town would be better to get their own person.

Council President Piercefield stated that he is in favor of this because he has worked with private companies and it is not a good situation. President Piercefield stated that he feels that it should be someone who knows our infrastructure and that there is a possibility of somebody who is internal interested in this position.

Councilwoman Sweet and Councilwoman Rooks agreed that this should be investigated.

President Piercefield stated that locates do not slow down, they pick up due to growth with infrastructure.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated that there are 1,500 feet of utility lines on Eisenhower Drive to locate within the next few days.

Discussion was held regarding locates having to be redone every 14 days.

Mr. Killinger asked if the Council had any reservations regarding the job being posted internally then being approached at the next Council meeting with an updated salary ordinance.

Mr. Myers stated that the sooner the better because that is one or two workers that could be doing other work instead of spending a lot of time doing locates.

Discussion was held regarding whether only one person would be able to do this.

Discussion was held regarding past times when utility lines were hit due to inaccurate locates.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Utility Locator Position to be posted internally. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Tiered Insurance Discussion- Parks Director Daniel Teter handed out tiered insurance paperwork to the Council. Director Teter stated that this was discussed at the previous Council meeting but has since been fine tuned. Director Teter stated that in the packet are vendors used by the Town and their suggested tier levels. Director Teter stated that the not applicable category concerns companies that have insurance coverage that exceeds what the Town normally asks for. Director Teter stated that they also put a band performance agreement which is something that they have not utilized yet. Director Teter stated that he would like permission for Attorney Huddleston to review it. Director Teter stated that the purpose of these documents is to provide the Council with a rationale for why a tiered system makes sense, giving options where it makes sense to take some appropriate risk, and then give examples of companies the Town has used and where their insurance falls. Director Teter discussed different ways to mitigate risk such as having waivers, contracts and something that Mr. Myers implemented is having hard stops in areas where we have festivals to avoid a vehicle driving through the festival.

Discussion was held regarding whether we required vendors to carry insurance. Director Teter discussed the Town's current insurance requirements, which is a \$5 million policy, if a vendor only has a \$3 million-dollar policy then the town takes a \$2 million dollar risk.

Discussion was held regarding whether other Towns use a similar process.

Discussion was held regarding issues the Town has had with companies being able to meet the insurance requirements.

Discussion was held regarding how this was deeper than the Parks & Rec taking risk.

Parks Director Teter asked if Attorney Huddleston could look at the band contract and waiver.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to review the band contract and waiver. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Other Business

Council President Piercefield stated that with SEA1 the Town is looking at a deficit. Earlier Water Superintendent Bill Joones mentioned finding a water leak. President Piercefield stated that currently fire suppression systems are not metered so if there is a leak on the system or if a fire happens, the water is unaccounted for. President Piercefield stated that the Town must have some form of reclaiming that money. President Piercefield stated that approximately 200,000 gallons of water a day have been lost since January 26, 2026. President Piercefield stated that they do not know if they can retroactively put these on fire suppression systems but believe they can with any new systems. President Piercefield stated that he would like Attorney Huddleston to work with Superintendent Jones to draft an ordinance on how to move forward. President Piercefield stated that they will have to investigate further to see if any of the money lost could be reclaimed. President Piercefield discussed that this would hit an industrial or commercial user, not residential.

Discussion was held regarding how you get a fire suppression system and if an ordinance of this nature should have been in place a long time ago.

President Piercefield stated that once the system is in a pit or building there is no way of knowing if the water is just being used for fire suppression since the Town cannot go in and check.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion for Attorney Huddleston to draft an ordinance on fire suppression system. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion approved 4-0

Councilman Piercefield asked Superintendent Jones to work with Attorney Huddleston on drafting the ordinance.

Superintendent Jones discussed the water leak they recently found.

Discussion was held regarding Edinburgh's soil composition.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Town's website provider is going away at the end of the year. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread and Accounts Receivable Emily Cravens have started meeting with other website providers.

Director Drybread stated that it is a 4-to-6-month timeline, so they hope to be done a month or two before the end of the year so that nothing is in limbo.

Cemetery Superintendent Stan Brown stated that he hopes to approach the Council at the next meeting with quotes for a new truck.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread asked if the Council or department heads receive any feedback from people regarding things they find difficult with the website to inform her and Accounts Receivable Emily Cravens so that they can be mindful of those comments when choosing a new website provider. Director Drybread stated that she is working on a lot of different grants and trying to wrap up the READI 2.0 grant.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated that their basketball season ended Saturday. Director Teter stated that there were a few fans that got out of hand and thanked Police Chief Doyne Little for having support there to ensure it did not get too out of hand. Director Teter stated that they are in the middle of baseball and softball signups and the Father Daughter Dance was successful. Director Teter stated that they are accepting seasonal applications for concession workers, lifeguards, etc.

Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Council President Piercefield made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Miriam Rooks, Vice President

Debbie Buck

Sherri Sweet

Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer

DRAFT