

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2013
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

President Hoffman called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Hoffman thanked everyone for coming.

Members answering roll call were: Councilman John Drybread, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Curtis Rooks, and President Ron Hoffman. Councilwoman Kami Ervin was absent. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston and Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda were the minutes of the Council Meeting of October 28, 2013. Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilman Simpson seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said claims were next on the agenda and handed it over to Clerk Treasurer Finley.

Clerk Treasurer Finley said everyone should have received the normal claim docket for the period. He also handed out a payment register of payables added that day to be reviewed by the council. Those claims were added because the electric superintendent had been out at the end of the prior week and did not have a chance to get his claims in on time. He said he had signed off on all of those claims and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Drybread made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Ordinance 2013-9 Establishing Storm Water Management. The ordinance has been discussed in past meetings and the council is at the point where a decision must be made. If the ordinance is passed the president has to name the members of the storm water management team. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-9. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Ordinance 2013-10 Recovery of Fire Protection Costs. This ordinance has also been discussed in the past and a public hearing was held. Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-10. Councilman Simpson seconded. Unanimous.

Town Attorney Huddleston said both of those ordinances will need to be advertised and will not become effective until 30 days after the advertisement.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Ordinance 2013-11 Electric Payment in Lieu of Taxes. He asked Clerk Treasurer Finley to explain the ordinance.

Mr. Finley said as discussed earlier in the budget season the town had planned to do a payment in lieu of taxes from the electric department of approximately \$27,000. That will not be a loan to the general fund it will be a direct payment that does not need to be paid back. That money will be used in place of tax dollars to relieve stress off of the budget. The electric fund will be taking part of its operating balance and transferring it to the general fund allowing the town to remove \$27,000 dollars from the tax roll.

John Rondot said it is no more money just money moving from one account to another, correct?

President Hoffman said it is basically moving from the electric operating which is revenue driven to the general fund.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-11. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

Council Comments

Councilman Drybread said the parks department has taken over the Holiday of Lights and has already begun decorating for that event. The council usually puts about \$3000 toward that event. It does take a lot of time to organize that and the parks department decided to take over when the merchant's association fizzled out.

Clerk Treasurer Finley said he wanted to follow up about the uncollected utility bills. He had Angie Pendleton put together a list of uncollected bills above \$400. The list contains about 29 accounts that have been closed out and still owe a balance. Looking in to what other cities and towns do was a little hit or miss. There was a lot of variation with how each city and town handled the collections. A few did say they had their attorney take the bills to small claims. There was a town that said their deputy clerk took the bills to small claims court. He said he would like to check into whether or not the clerk is allowed to take those to small claims or if it has to be the town's attorney.

Councilman Simpson said sending a letter from the attorney had come up and ask if that would be a feasible idea.

President Hoffman said that may be a good start but each letter he writes is just adding to the fees and cutting into what the town actually gets back.

Councilman Rooks asked if Mr. Finley had a grand total of all the uncollected accounts.

Mr. Finley said he did not have a dollar amount but again there are 29 accounts that are at least \$400 dollars overdue. Most of them are between \$400 and \$800 but there are a few above \$1,000. He said a lot of these bills come from customers receiving energy assistance. If a customer is receiving energy assistance they cannot be turned off between December 1 and March 15.

Building Commissioner Wade Watson said he would like to acknowledge that he and President Hoffman went to the award ceremony for the OCRA grant on November 5. They received the official notification that the town has been awarded the full amount of \$127,000 for the demolition of the grain elevator. They also received good news from OCRA that the town can include the highway bore in the grant money which will save the town somewhere between \$8,000 and \$12,000. He also received a modified contract regarding asbestos inspection that he will have to the council before the next meeting.

Departmental Comments

Fire Chief Allen Smith said the Lion's Club will again be funding smoke detectors. They will be donating approximately 150 smoke detectors for those in need. Also the American Legion will be preparing a ham and bean dinner with all proceeds going to the cheer fund.

Public Comments

John Rondot asked what was going on with all the digging on East Main Cross.

Councilman Drybread said Miller Pipeline is digging to repair or replace gas lines.

Rhonda Simpson asked if the town had an ordinance requiring dogs to be on a leash.

Clerk Treasurer Finley said there is a state law requiring dogs to be on a leash at all times.


President Hoffman said there is also an ordinance in place for that matter.

Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL



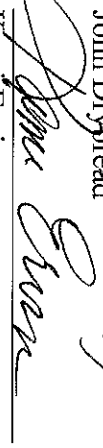
Ron Hoffman, President



Curtis Rooks, Vice President



John Drybread



Kami Ervin



Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:



Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer