

Town Council Meeting  
Monday, June 22, 2015  
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, June 22, 2015 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 Jack Shepherd, Councilwoman Dawn Graham, Vice President Kami Ervin and President Ron Hoffman. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston and Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley. Councilman Jeff Simpson was absent.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda were the minutes of the council meeting of June 8, 2015. Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said claims were next on the agenda and handed it over to Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley. Mr. Finley said everyone should have received a copy of the normal claim docket and the May end-of-month claim docket in their council packets. He also had three additional claims that were added to the docket. A lease payment for the street department's dump truck, a lease payment for the copier in the town office, and park mortgage payment. The total for the end-of-month claim docket was \$198,357.18 and the total for the regular claim docket was \$1,035,121.71. He said he had signed off on all the claims in those dockets and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the public hearing for MacBeath, Establishing an Economic Development Revitalization Area. He asked if there was anything the board would like to discuss before he opened the public hearing.

Town Attorney Huddleston said as required by statute the notice of the public hearing was published in all three papers and notices were also hand delivered to all taxing units including the Edinburgh Public Library and Edinburgh Public Schools. The resolution establishing the ERA was filed with the Johnson County Assessor and Auditor.

Being no other discussion from the board President Hoffman opened the public hearing. With no comments from the public, President Hoffman closed the public hearing.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Resolution 2015-7 MacBeath Tax Abatement. Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-7. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the Memorandum of the MacBeath Agreement. Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to allow President Hoffman to sign the Memorandum of the MacBeath Agreement. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Resolution 2015-6 Sacoma Tax Abatement. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-6. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the Memorandum of the Sacoma Agreement. Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to allow President Hoffman to sign the Memorandum of the Sacoma Agreement. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the public hearing for the OCRA grant. The grant being applied for is for the Blue River Building.

Donna Anderson and Kent Anderson were present from Kenna Consulting who were assisting the town in the grant writing process. Ms. Anderson passed around a sign in sheet for everyone attending the meeting. She said the Town of Edinburgh is applying for a grant to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) under the public facilities program. The grant would be used to make improvements to the Blue River building located at 100 and 102 East Main Cross Street. The grant money would be used for the exterior of the building only. In order to qualify for the grant the town will have to pass a resolution declaring the building as a blighted building in need of redevelopment. Last year the council appointed a five member board to explore uses for the building after renovation and it was decided it would be used as a community center. The interior of the building will be completed as the town receives additional funding. The OCRA grant the town will be applying for is for \$400,000 with a \$50,000 local match from the Bartholomew County EDIT Fund. The application is due July 10, 2015 and the award announcement will be August 28, 2015. Any letters of support explaining the need for the improvements would be greatly appreciated. The sign in sheet as well as the minutes from the public hearing will be included in the application. She opened the floor for comments from the public and council.

Councilwoman Ervin said one of the appeals of the Town of Edinburgh is the downtown historic area. Protecting the integrity of the building is vital to keeping the downtown area alive.

Town Manager John Drybread said the town gutted the building completely and it has real potential for a great community room.

Councilwoman Graham said the town needs the community center for both the adults and the children of the community.

Building Commissioner Wade Watson said he realizes the grant is only for the exterior but he wanted to speak about the need for the community center. The layout that was proposed by the engineers makes the space extraordinarily useful. It would be a great community center that would support the entire community's needs. The committee that was established for this project found great interest in the community to preserve the building and also make it a functional part of the community. Putting a community center at the heart of the town would help draw additional business to the already established businesses.

President Hoffman opened the public hearing for the OCRA grant.

John Rondot of 222 St. Andrews Avenue asked who owned the building and who would be responsible for maintaining it after the restoration.

President Hoffman said the building was deeded to the Town of Edinburgh for \$1 in 2007.

Mr. Watson said the plan would be for the Parks Department to manage the community center.

Mr. Rondot said older buildings can be very expensive to maintain.

Mr. Watson said after the restoration was completed the building would basically be a new building in an old skin. He does not foresee having many maintenance issues after the project is completed.

Ted Lucas of 1125 Constitution Drive said it would be a shame to let a historic building fall and have an empty space in the downtown area. There is a great need for the building to be restored.

Being no other public comments President Hoffman closed the public hearing.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Resolution 2015-8 Slum and Blight Spot Declaratory. He asked Mr. Watson to explain the resolution.

Mr. Watson said the resolution is part of the requirement to make the town eligible to apply for the OCRA grant. It means that the area requires improvement. Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-8. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Resolution 2015-9 Grant Application Submission and Local Match Commitment. The resolution authorizes the council president to submit the grant application and also authorizes the \$50,000 local match. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-9. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Ordinance 2015-4 Control of Animals. The council had asked Mr. Huddleston to draft an updated ordinance to address complaints from residents. He asked the council for input regarding the ordinance or any changes.

Councilman Shepherd said there may be some issues with the limit on the number of animals on a property. The ordinance also does not specify if those animals are inside or outside pets. The problem is not necessarily the number of pets but whether the owner can take care of the pets and the ordinance does cover treatment of animals.

Councilwoman Ervin agreed that the number of animals may be an issue. She said she does not know if it is right for a town to be able to tell a resident how many pets they can have if the owner can provide the right care for them. However, if there are too many pets outdoors, that could become a nuisance. She said it would be nice to have a couple of weeks to be able to bring some specific recommendations to the table.

Councilwoman Graham said she wanted to touch on the section regarding trapping of animals. Animal Control often will not remove skunks or opossums that often make homes under sheds.

Mr. Watson said he would suggest that the council consider "Section 2: Keeping of Animals" and whether or not to allow certain animals on any residential lot rather than within 200 feet of another residential lot. He would suggest making them allowed only on agricultural lots. There is a property in town limits that is grandfathered in with horses or mules on the property so the council may want to think about addressing that in the ordinance. He said he would also suggest trapping of animals for removal from the property be permitted so long as it is through a professional agency.

More discussion was held until Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to table Ordinance 2015-4 until the July 13, 2015 council meeting for further review. Councilman Shepherd seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the Town Property-Liability Insurance Renewal. The overall premium for the town went down approximately \$3,000 from the previous year's premium. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the town's property and liability insurance renewal and to allow Town Manager John Drybread to sign off on the policy.

#### Council Comments

Councilwoman Ervin said she had a resident contact her regarding a handicap swing at Irwin Park. She said she had contacted Parks Director Daniel Teter and they discussed the possibilities of having one put in at the park. She gave the council a handout with three different swing options. The park's budget is often tight so she thought the town could find some money to help with the project.

Mr. Drybread said he had talked with Mr. Teter and they had discussed the stand-alone handicap swing set. Mr. Teter was going to do some more research but it looks like it will cost around \$2,500. The topic has been discussed previously and it is a step towards becoming ADA compliant.

Mr. Huddleston reminded the council that the two resolutions passed for the tax abatements include components that the two companies, Sacoma and MacBeath, will be contributing back a certain percentage each year to a redevelopment fund.

Mr. Finley said he would be starting work on 2016 budgets and he would have a budget schedule at the next meeting including dates for budget workshops. He said his meeting with the DLGF representative is on July 24.

### Departmental Comments


Town Manager John Drybread said the Electric Department will be out trimming trees from the primary lines in the next couple of weeks. There was a power outage a few days earlier caused by a limb falling on a line.

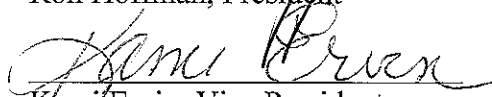
### Public Comments

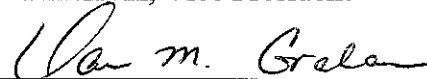
John Rondot handed out a proposal to the council on ways to help keep the Town of Edinburgh clean of litter. He asked that the council write down any ideas they may have regarding the proposal and let him know what they think.

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Unanimous.

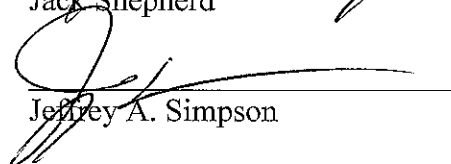
### **EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

  
Ron Hoffman, President

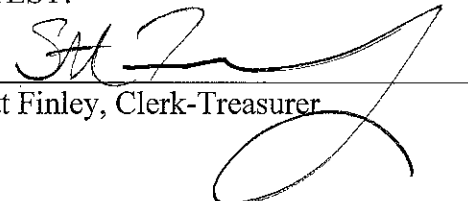
  
Kami Ervin, Vice President

  
Dawn Graham

  
Jack Shepherd

  
Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:

  
Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer