

Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2015
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 28, 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, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Councilwoman Dawn Graham, Vice President Kami Ervin and President Ron Hoffman. 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 September 14, 2015. Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Graham 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 two claim dockets in their council packets. A regular claim docket for the period and also an end-of-month claim docket for August. The total for the end-of-month claim docket was \$220,281.14. In the regular claim docket he said he recommended the council withhold the claims for The Spyglass Group, LLC until the staff can verify that the town is getting everything that it paid for with the telecommunications audit. The total for the regular claim docket after removing the Spyglass claims was \$752,989.04. 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 all claims with the exception of any claims to The Spyglass Group, LLC. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the public hearing for the 2016 budget. He asked if the council had any questions before he opened the public hearing.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if there had been any significant changes.

Mr. Finley said the numbers from the previous budget workshop were what was advertised through Gateway. There will be a budget workshop immediately following this meeting to discuss changes before the adoption on October 12, 2015.

President Hoffman opened the public hearing for the 2016 budget. Being no questions or comments from the public, President Hoffman closed the public hearing.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Resolution 2015-13 Creating an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA). He said this ERA is for Copple's Wrecker Service to move to State Road 252 on the East side of town. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-13. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the Humane Society of Johnson County discussing a grant for outdoor cats in Edinburgh and other Johnson County communities. There were two ladies from the humane society present to lead the discussion.

Janet Gorrell and Kim Fletcher were both present from the humane society. Ms. Gorrell said in 2013 there was a Trap, Neuter, Return (NTR) ordinance passed in Johnson County. The idea is to greatly reduce the number of feral cats in the county. The humane society received a \$23,000 grant to trap, neuter, and return feral cats. The 3 areas picked for this were Edinburgh, Nineveh, and Trafalgar. The humane society will basically pick up free-roaming cats, spay or neuter them, and return them to where they were picked up. They wanted to know from the council what would be the best way to get the word out to the Edinburgh residents.

Councilwoman Ervin said she found it very difficult to find the information about this on the humane society website. If the information was more easily accessible it might increase public knowledge.

Ms. Gorrell said she had fliers with her that she would hand out and they could post around town. The flier is strictly for feral cats but the humane society will also spay or neuter dogs at no cost to the owner. If the cat is picked up and looks like it has not been taken care of, the cat will be nursed back to health and not put back in a dangerous situation.

President Hoffman said he will make sure the fliers are posted around town and we will also get it on the town website. He thanked the two ladies for being at the meeting.

Departmental Comments

Police Chief David Mann said he wanted to let the council know that the department is working with the county to find ways to better utilize animal control and help the county better enforce the town's animal control ordinance. They have been very helpful to the town.

Street Superintendent Curtis Rooks said he wanted to let the council know the department is still doing work on the streets. They have been filling in pot holes and have some curb work that will be starting soon. The street sweeper is back up and running as well and they will continue getting things ready for the winter to hit.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Ervin said she wanted to commend all the town departments that worked on the Fall Festival. It takes a lot of work to keep that area clean with that kind of event going on and everything looked very neat each morning after the festival.

Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said Resolution 2015-13 will be followed up by a public hearing at the next meeting to formally adopt the abatement. Tonight the ERA was established and per Indiana Code it must be advertised and have a public hearing. Also, at the previous meeting there was a petition submitted for voluntary annexation. He said he had looked over that petition and everything complied with state statutes. The council can consider the annexation and take it under advisement.

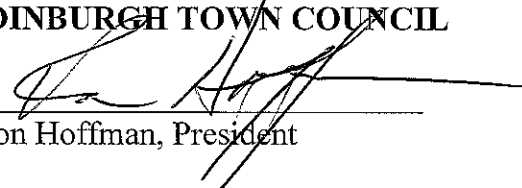
Public Comments

Gene Redding of 506 S. Walnut St. said he hired an electrician a few months ago to replace his fuse box with a breaker box. The electrician was told he needed a permit to perform the work and because he needed to pull a permit some other factors kicked in such as the need for wired smoke alarms in the house. Ultimately the cost of the project doubled. He believes the situation may be a matter of misunderstood information. There is no ordinance requiring a permit for electrical service upgrade. The situation is holding up the project and he cannot sell his house until the project is complete. He said he has looked through both state and local laws and cannot find anything requiring him to have a permit for this project.

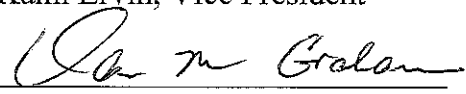
President Hoffman said the council would look into it with the Building Commissioner and get the issue resolved. He said Mr. Watson will be in contact with him as well.

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

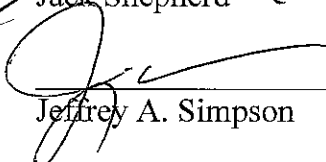
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ron Hoffman, President

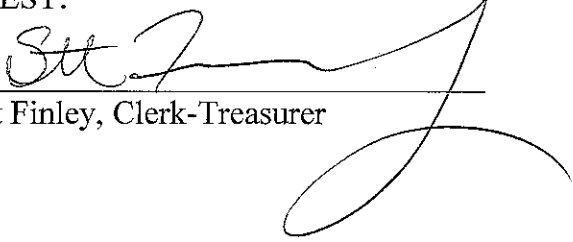
Kami Ervin, Vice President


Dawn Graham


Jack Shepherd


Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer