

Town Council Meeting
Monday, December 30, 2019
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

Members answering roll call: Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Dawn Graham, Councilman Ryan Piercefield, and President Jerry Lollar. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley and Town Manager JT Doane. Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston was absent.

Minutes – Council meeting minutes of December 9, 2019 and special meeting minutes of December 23, 2019. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Claims - The council received three claim dockets in the council packet. The first was an end-of-month docket for October totaling \$282,077.46, the second was an end-of-month docket for November totaling \$243,608.93, and the third was the regular docket for the period totaling \$921,448.34. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on all the claims in that docket and handed them over to the council for approval.

Councilman Piercefield said he noticed the SEALS bill and asked if they were billing both the town and the patient.

Mr. Finley said he believes they would bill the town for the intercept and the patient for the ambulance transport, but he was not entirely positive on the process.

Councilman Piercefield said he will look further into this issue and report back to the council.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-24 Enacting and Adopting Supplement to the Code of Ordinances (First Reading) – Mr. Finley said American Legal Publishing has completed the update to the codebook and this ordinance states that the town will accept the codebook changes. This is the same ordinance with different dates that has been passed for previous revisions. He said he will be discussing with American Legal the possibility of them hosting an electronic version of our codebook for easier access for citizens and staff members.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2019-24 and consider it for approval. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-24. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

2019 Encumbrances – Mr. Finley said he had placed this item on the agenda in case any department heads came to him last minute with any encumbrances. There were no encumbrances for 2019.

Ordinance 2019-21 Transfer of Appropriations (Second Reading) – Mr. Finley said he sent the council an email with the information for the transfers. He said he would be happy to answer any questions regarding the transfers.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve ordinance 2019-21. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-20 Salary Ordinance – Mr. Doane said the changes to the ordinance were referenced in blue and said he would be happy to answer any questions regarding the ordinance.

Councilwoman Buck asked how the staff came up with the increases.

Mr. Doane said most of the changes were made because there are employees that are at the maximum wage and would not be eligible for any more raises. He gave a list of positions that have hit the max.

President Lollar said he believed the percentages were too high.

Councilman Simpson said he would like to see a comparison of some cities and towns of similar size.

Mr. Finley said he can provide the council with the AIM salary survey that has been provided to them in the past when it is available.

Councilman Piercefield asked if this was a five-year plan for these salaries.

Mr. Doane said yes. There could be changes to other positions in the next few years but ideally the positions being changed in this ordinance would not need to be looked at for several years.

Further Discussion was held regarding salaries within certain departments.

Mr. Finley said his recommendation if the council is concerned with increases would be to pass the salary ordinance and make a separate motion that no pay increases will be issued until the salaries have been revisited. The ordinance itself does not approve departmental raises.

Further discussion was held regarding the salary ordinance.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the salaries from the previous salary ordinance with the addition of the five salaries from ordinance 2019-20. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 3 to 2 with Councilwoman Graham and Councilman Piercefield voting nay.

Mr. Finley said he apologizes for having to continue the conversation but there was an increase for the Clerk-Treasurer in the salary ordinance. Elected officials' salaries cannot be amended after it is set for the year. He said he has not had a raise in a few years, and this means he will not be able to get one until 2021.

President Lollar said he has no problem amending the motion as he had forgotten his increase was in the ordinance.

Mr. Finley said he could pull the salary ordinance up and the council could go line by line and express their opinions on the range.

Councilwoman Buck said she has no issue with the Clerk-Treasurer increase but feels like some of the hourly rates are not based on anything. She said she would be in favor of approving the new ordinance and revisiting it in the early part of 2020.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to rescind his previous motion regarding the salary ordinance. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve ordinance 2019-20 but to revisit the salaries before February 1, 2020. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 1 with President Lollar voting nay.

Ordinance 2019-22 Amending Chapter 50 Regarding Sewage Works (First Reading) – Mr. Doane said this was discussed at the last meeting but has been altered slightly. The ordinance adjusts the fees associated with the sewage works. The ordinance is before the council for a first reading.

President Lollar explained that the council cannot waive the first reading of this ordinance as it requires public notice before a public hearing.

Councilman Simpson said the 1-inch connection fee is going from \$1,500 to \$5,000. That seems like a huge change and he does not want to deter residential development.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said generally a residential unit would have a 5/8-inch connection. A small business like a restaurant could have a 1-inch connection. These fees should help keep residential rates down over the next few years. The ordinance also allows those fees to be adjusted at the council's discretion on a case by case basis.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2019-22. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow Mr. Doane to have Mr. Huddleston draft the necessary notices for Ordinance 2019-22. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-23 Amending Chapter 51 Regarding Water Works (First Reading) – Mr. Doane explained that this ordinance is similar to the previous ordinance except for the water department.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2019-23. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow Mr. Doane to have Mr. Huddleston draft the necessary notices for Ordinance 2019-23. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-13 Board Appointments to Planning Commission, Joint Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Redevelopment Commission, Redevelopment Authority, and Economic Development – Councilwoman Graham explained the changes to the appointments. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-13. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-14 Expressing Interest in the Sale of Town Owned Real Estate and Appointment of Appraisers – Mr. Doane said an investor/developer has purchased several pieces of real estate in town and is interested in the building across from the utility office. Before the town can consider an offer, it must first have appraisals done on the building.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-14. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Water Plant Detail/Analysis – Wessler Engineering – Mr. Doane said the council has a draft of this but since Mr. Huddleston could not be present, he asked that his be tabled until the next council meeting.

2020 Fire Department Update – Mike Herron will take over as chief on January 1, 2020. Mr. Finley will be updating the new hire packets for 2020 so that we can get the paid standby positions filled soon. The scheduling system is already up and running and we currently have 23 firefighters ready to be on the roster. Sleeping quarters should be ready early in January.

Brandon Routier of the volunteer fire staff said we will continue the current process on January 1, 2020 until we are ready to switch to the paid standby in mid-January. There will be no lapse in coverage.

Mr. Doane said Fire Chief Allen Smith was recognized for his years of service at the Employee Appreciation Day lunch.

2020 Recycling Update – Mr. Doane said the area where the recycling container will go has been cleaned out. The attorneys for both parties are working on the agreement and should be ready in January.

2020 Blue River Township Fire and EMS Service – Mr. Doane said the town provides fire and EMS services to Blue River Township. This agreement reflects the 2020 fees due but also the fees for 2016 and 2017 that were not paid.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the 2020 Blue River Fire and EMS agreement. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow President Lollar to sign the 2020 Blue River Fire and EMS agreement on behalf of the council. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Pool Property Discussion – Mr. Doane said there is interest by the school to deed the pool property to the town to remove it from any liability. Mr. Huddleston is preparing documents that would need to go before the school board for approval.

President Lollar said the school will still need to have access to the property for student pick-up and drop-off. He recommended that a council member and school board member meet onsite to figure out the details.

Cathy Hamm of the school board said the school board has not formally discussed on what to do with the property but there is a desire with the members to deed the land over. She would not want to see the town pay for a survey before the school board has taken formal action on the property.

Discussion was held regarding the process for the property.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to complete a survey on the pool property contingent on the school board meeting and agreeing to move forward with the process of giving the pool property to the town. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Council Comments

All council members expressed their gratitude to President Lollar for his service as councilmember and president of town council.

Mr. Finley said the town has a plaque to recognize President Lollar's service on town council. He asked President Lollar to step up to the podium.

Mr. Doane presented President Lollar with a plaque in recognition of his service on Edinburgh Town Council.

Departmental Comments

Mr. Doane thanked the council for their support in all the projects they have completed in 2019. He thanked President Lollar for his service. He thanked the staff for the teamwork that has made all the projects possible.

All present department heads thanked the council for a great year and thanked President Lollar for his service.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones gave an update on well #1. The well is supposed to be 104 feet deep. When they pulled the pump, they found that it is only 78 feet deep. The screens are bad on the well and he will be looking at options for the well in 2020.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said he does not have official numbers yet, but it appears that the department is up about \$12,000 over last year's revenues.

Public Comments

Cathy Hamm of 503 Lincoln Street said she would like to public thank Dawn Graham and her son, Ian; Jeff Simpson and his wife, Rhonda; and Bill Jones and his son, Travis for their help delivering food baskets this year.

President Lollar said he wanted to first congratulate Miriam Rooks on her election to Town Council. He thanked all the council members, town employees, and the voters of Edinburgh. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the town. He said his constituents wanted to see transparency and a stop to the quote "good old boy system." He believes this council has achieved that. He warned future council's about how these issues can affect the town. He also urged the council to make a wise decision on who they appoint as president of the council because it is an important position. He thanked Mr. Doane for the work he has done but he still has to be held accountable.

Being no further business or comments, Councilman Piercefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

Debbie Buck
Debbie Buck

Dawn Graham
Dawn Graham

Ryan Piercefield
Ryan Piercefield

Miriam Rooks
Miriam Rooks

Jeff Simpson
Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:

Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer