

Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2019
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 9, 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, Town Manager JT Doane, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

Minutes – Special meeting minutes of August 26, 2019, council meeting minutes of August 26, 2019, and executive meeting minutes of September 3, 2019. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Claims - The council received a copy of the claim docket in the council packet. The total for the docket was \$994,816.42 Mr. Finley said he had signed off on all the claims in that docket and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claim dockets as submitted. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Public Hearing 2020 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rate – Mr. Finley said he supplied the council with a copy of the Form 3 Notice to Taxpayers that was advertised through the Gateway website. He explained that line five showed the current tax levy for 2019 and line 3 showed the estimated max levy for 2020. He said the public hearing will be opened in just a few minutes and adoption of the 2020 budget is scheduled for September 23, 2019. He explained that we can still make changes to the budget as long as we do not go higher than what was advertised on the Form 3.

President Lollar opened the public hearing for the 2020 budget.

Debbie Vaughan of 1127 Constitution Drive asked if there would be a change to the tax rate.

Mr. Finley said the tax rate that will show on the Form 4 will be slightly inflated due to the budget process. We use a conservative net assessed value during the budget process, about 85%, which advertised the rate higher than expected. He said he does not see the tax rate fluctuating much from the previous few years.

Being no further public comments, President Lollar closed the public hearing for the 2020 budget.

Town Marshall Employment Agreement – Town Manager JT Doane said Town Attorney Huddleston has drafted an employment agreement between the town and Doyne Little. Mr. Little has accepted the terms of the agreement and the agreement is before the council for action. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the Town Marshall Employment Agreement. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

The council congratulated Town Marshall Doyne Little on his position.

Blight Clearance Program – Mr. Doane said Kent and Donna Anderson of Kenna Consulting are present and are assisting the town with obtaining grant dollars from the acquisition and removal of the blighted structure on the corner of Holland and Thompson and possibly the demolition of the building adjacent to the water plant that the town recently acquired.

President Lollar asked if this was a one-time opportunity or if it was ongoing.

Ms. Anderson said the town can apply for up to \$500,000 from OCRA over the course of 5 years.

Well #1 Suez Contract – Mr. Doane said this contract is similar to the contracts we have for wells #3, #4, and #5. Mr. Huddleston has reviewed the contract and has no issues. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the Well #1 Suez Contract. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

School Resource Officer (SRO) – Mr. Doane said the school was awarded \$25,000 to fund an SRO. The grant requires a 50% match. We have an MOU that has been approved by the council and the school board. The next steps would be drafting a job description and collaborate on hiring an officer.

President Lollar said he is in favor of hiring an SRO. The SRO would be hired as a Town of Edinburgh police officer and would spend most of their time at the school. When school is not in session he would be utilized as a standard police officer.

Discussion was held regarding the hiring process.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to allocate the necessary funds from the police budget to fund an SRO. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Food Pantry – Mr. Doane said the food pantry has been housed at fire station 2 for a while now. The pantry will be moving to the Odd Fellows building downtown in the near future. They asked that the council waive the utilities for that building. The council received a copy of the utilities for that building for the last year.

Jack Gray of the Ministerial Association was present and said if they can get the utilities covered it would leave more money for food. The use of the building is on a year to year basis but they hope to be there for a long time. They are not paying any rent for the building.

Councilwoman Graham asked what the building was being used for during the period of the report.

Discussion was held regarding the uses of the building previously.

Mr. Finley said he can pull the utility cost for the food pantry when it was across the street from the utility office to maybe get a better idea of the cost of operation.

Councilman Piercefield said the board is inclined to help but want to make sure we have a grasp on what the costs will be.

Jarvis Enterprises - Blue River Dam – Mike Jarvis introduced Donovan Henry of the Fish and Wildlife Service to talk about the dam and possible funding options for making the area safer for people and better for the fish and wildlife.

Mr. Henry thanked the council for allowing them the time to come and give this discussion. He presented a PowerPoint on low head dams. He explained they have done several projects similar to what he would be discussing. He explained they are not telling anyone what to do about the dam they are just offering an option. He explained that low head dams are mostly not used anymore. Dams restrict fish migration and the pool they create reduces water quality. They are also very dangerous to people who get trapped in the current. It is nearly impossible to get out of the current once pulled in. His presentation continued with benefits of removing the dam and the process for removal.

Councilman Piercefield asked if removing the dam would affect the flood maps and insurance rates.

Mr. Henry said that is doubtful. The dam is not used for flood control.

Councilwoman Buck asked how long the process would take.

Mr. Henry said it's about a 2 year process from application to demolition.

Further discussion was held regarding dangers and timelines.

President Lollar said he and Councilwoman Graham have met with this group and he thought it was important for the entire council to hear the presentation. He said the council needs to discuss the issue and a public meeting has been discussed on September 30th. He thanked Mr. Henry and Mr. Jarvis for their time and presentation.

Council Comments

Councilman Piercefield said the East Main Cross project is moving along and looks great. He thanked the electric department for their fast response on the recent outage. The department provides great service to the town.

President Lollar welcomed Town Marshall Little.

Mr. Little said he appreciates the opportunity and he looks forward to making the town a safer place.

Departmental Comments

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said he would be doing hydrant flushing at the end of September.

President Lollar asked that we get that advertised before flushing.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said the Fall Festival starts this week. He listed some of the activities and bands that would be performing. He said he is finalizing numbers for the swimming pool and will have those at the next meeting.

Fire Chief Allen Smith said the department got its ISO rating back and the rating when down again which is good news for residents as the ISO rating affects insurance rates. The lower the rating the lower the insurance rates will be.

Mr. Doane thanked Dr. Arnold and the school board members for the collaboration on the School Resource Officer. He also thanked the first responders for their work on the accident today.

Public Comments

Ryan Coy of 400 Lincoln Street asked when there would be more details on the SRO.

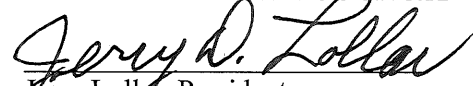
President Lollar said that information will come from Town Marshall Little and Mr. Doane very soon with the approval of funding tonight.


Paul Burton of 125 Lind Drive said he recently received the deed to the Christian Church building. The building has been without any utilities for 10 years. They have raised \$50,000 to make this building usable again. He said this building has nothing to do with the church where he is Pastor. It will be a civic building. He asked for assistance with the utility deposit on that building. Because it is a commercial building the utility deposit is \$2,100.

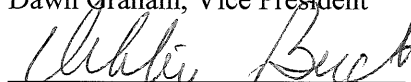
President Lollar said the council would look into this and get back with him.

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

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Jerry Lollar, President


Dawn Graham, Vice President


Debbie Buck


Ryan Piercefield

Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:



Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer