

**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, September 23, 2019**  
**6:00 P.M. Town Hall**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 23, 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, 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. Councilman Jeff Simpson was absent.

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

**Claims** - The council received two claim dockets in the council packet. The first was an end-of-month docket for July totaling \$694,628.94 and the second was the regular claim docket for the period totaling \$691,536.02. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on all the claims in those dockets and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the claim dockets as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Ordinance 2019-7 Final Adoption of 2020 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rate** – Mr. Finley said the public hearing for the 2020 budget was held at the previous meeting. He said the adopted tax rate is similar to what was adopted for the 2019 budget. He said he believes the actual tax rate will be slightly lower for 2020 than it was for 2019.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2019-7. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-7. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Blight Clearance Program** – Town Manger JT Doane said at the previous meeting they had discussed this grant opportunity. The grant would be to acquire and demolish the building at the corner of Holland and Thompson as well as possibly demolish the building adjacent to the water department. He explained that the grant requires an appraisal. The estimated cost is about \$5,000.

Councilwoman Graham asked about the match for the grant.

Mr. Doane said it is a 10% match from local funds.

Town Attorney Huddleston said normally the purchase of property by a governmental entity requires two appraisals.

Discussion was held regarding appraisals for the building.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to table the blight clearance discussion for legal review.

**School Resource Officer Update** – Mr. Doane gave a background on the SRO process. He said he met with the school board regarding the hiring process. Resumes will be accepted through September 27<sup>th</sup>. The resumes will be reviewed and a date will be set to interview candidates.

**Police Department Staffing Updates** – Town Marshall Doyne Little said there are two positions open in the police department. Officer Sell will be leaving on October 17<sup>th</sup> and the Lieutenant position is also open from his promotion to Marshall. Councilman Piercefield made a motion to fill both vacant police officer positions. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Little said he would be promoting Hector Mercado to Lieutenant. He has been the department's training officer for several years and will make a great Lieutenant.

Discussion was held regarding ranks within the police department.

**Electric Department Staffing Update** – Mr. Doane said the electric department has had two open positions for some time now. They have received a resume from Braden Roberts and would like to consider him to fill one of those positions at a rate between \$26 and \$28 per hour.

Assistant Electric Superintendent Steve Clark said he worked with Mr. Roberts for several months and he is very knowledgeable. He is looking to relocate to the area. He is currently a 4<sup>th</sup> year apprentice.

Discussion was held regarding his education.

Mr. Finley said the salary ordinance does not allow the pay range stated for a 4<sup>th</sup> year apprentice. If we wanted to pay that amount we would need to adjust that range in the salary ordinance.

Discussion was held regarding the salary ordinance.

**Food Pantry Update** – Mr. Doane said the food pantry has asked that the town waive the utilities for the building they will be moving into. Allen Smith has provided some numbers on the utilities when the food pantry was across the street from town hall and while it was at the fire station.

Councilwoman Graham asked if we still had employees that help with the pickup of the food.

Mr. Finley said yes but less often than in previous years.

Jack Gray of the food pantry said he has taken over the majority of pickups.

Discussion was held regarding the utility billing and food pickup.

Mr. Finley said if the council chooses to approve this he would recommend having the bills directed to the town rather than actually waiving the bills. Councilman Piercefield made a motion to pay the food pantry's utility bill for 1 year and revisit after one year of history is obtained and allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a resolution regarding the utility bills. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Wastewater Department Grinder** – Mr. Doane said the town obtained 3 quotes for the grinder that is inoperable at the moment. Two quotes were to repair the current pump and one was to replace the pump. He recommend replacing the pump so there is a warranty on the pump.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the quote to replace the grinder for \$28,700. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

**Backhoe Repair** – Mr. Doane said we have received two quotes for backhoe repair and it has been difficult to get a 3<sup>rd</sup>. He will be working to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote.

**Ordinance 2019-8 First Reading of Salary Ordinance Amendment** – Mr. Doane said this amendment changes the Town Marshall salary to reflect the retirement of Mr. Mann and also changes the number of pays the Pool Manager receives since the pool is now open longer. As stated earlier in the meeting, before the next reading the staff will update the electric pay rates as well.

President Lollar said he would like to see the changes highlighted for the next meeting.

No action was taken on the ordinance.

**Recycling Option** – Mr. Doane said he will be meeting with Johnson County regarding a possible site for recycling in town. He will have a better idea of pricing at the next meeting.

**Ordinance 2019-9 First Reading of Electric Rate Increase** – Mr. Doane said the staff has been working with Alpha Engineering about this rate increase for some time now. The increase is slight and is in preparation for some large capital projects to come in the future.

Mr. Huddleston said he would like to look into whether we are required to hold a public hearing before approval as it is a rate increase.

No action was taken on the ordinance.

**East Main Cross Phase I Grass Discussion** – Mr. Doane said the grass on phase one of the East Main Cross is unacceptable. The soil was not ideal for growing. After reviewing the contract for the construction there is nothing we can have the contractor do to remedy the situation. A plan has been developed to fix the problem internally. The current grass will be killed off, topsoil will be added, and new grass will be planted. Homeowners will be given a letter on how to best maintain the grass while it is coming in. The estimated total would be \$4,548.50.

Tom Totten of 604 East Main Cross said what was put down was hardy soil. It contained brick, concrete, and rocks. He hauled off 5 gallon buckets of debris. There is still concrete in the yard and he has ruined mower blades and broken glasses from weed whacking debris.

President Lollar said the town is responsible for oversight of the project and now we need to fix the problem. In the future we will make sure to check the requirements for this type of work.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the project for \$4,548.50. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

### **Departmental Comments**

Mr. Doane said October 7<sup>th</sup> – October 11<sup>th</sup> will be Downtown Development Week. Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch will be in town to speak regarding Downtown Development.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said the department will start hydrant flushing next week. He said he had Bastin and Logan in to look at water filters. They inspected the cells and found that cell 4 is 10 inches lower than the others. He obtained a quote to vacuum out those cells and inspect the cells. The quote was \$17,840. Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the quote as submitted. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Parks Director Daniel Teter said the Fall Festival went great. He thanked the council and the Lions Club for the support of the festival. He believes it was the busiest year yet. Newwave sponsored a magician one night and the grant from Johnson County Tourism paid for the other entertainment.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes said the department is doing an odor control study on 800 North. They are adjusting the flow of odor control to see if they can get the odor under control.

Town Marhsall Little said the department held active threat training at the school recently and it went really well. Hopefully we never need to use that training but it is necessary to understand how to react in those situations.

### **Public Comments**

Paul Burton of 125 Lind Drive asked if the council had discussed his request to waive the utility deposit for the building he is helping turn into a civic center.

President Lollar asked what functions the building would host.

Mr. Burton said he would like to get input from the public but it would be strictly a civic center.

President Lollar asked if there would be a board for the building.

Mr. Burton said currently he and Nate Dillingham are the only two on the board. Mr. Dillingham has been very generous and they have raised about \$50,000 for the project. It is a blighted building and they would like to make some use out of it.

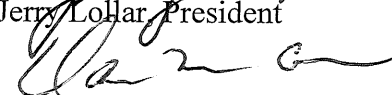
Discussion was held regarding the utility deposits.

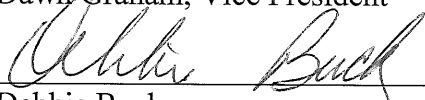
Councilman Piercefield made a motion to waive the utility deposit for 306 South Walnut Street. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

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

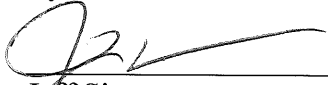
**EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

  
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Jerry Lollar, President

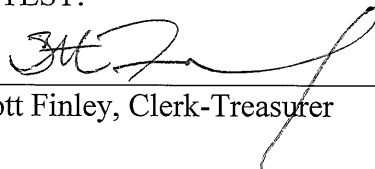
  
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Dawn Graham, Vice President

  
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Debbie Buck

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Ryan Piercefield

  
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Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:

  
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Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer