

**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, April 27, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M. Town Hall**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

**Members answering roll call:** *Due to the COVID-19 public emergency and per Executive Order 20-09, members may have attended electronically (e).* Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Vice President Dawn Graham (e), Councilman Ryan Piercefield, and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley (e), and Town Manager JT Doane.

**Minutes** – Council meeting of April 13, 2020. Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Claims** – The council received a copy of the claim docket in their council packets. The total for the docket was \$625,720.53. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on the claims in that docket and handed them over to the council for approval.

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

**Public Official Bond Approval** – Mr. Finley said with the retirement of Mr. Lutz and Hector Mercado taking his place as Assistant Town Marshall, he will need to be bonded. The bond amount is \$15,000.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the public official bond for Hector Mercado. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

**Hisada Tax Abatement** – Mr. Finley said he and Building Commissioner Wade Watson had spoke regarding this abatement. Hisada has two active abatements. The first, 2011-3, they appear to be in substantial compliance with. The second, 2013-3, they do not appear to be in full compliance. They show a loss of 77 employees. An explanation from last year showed they were using temp workers which did not count toward their employee count. The staff recommendation is for approval based on that as well as the current unemployment issue with the public health emergency. The abatements are in the later years, so the abatement amounts are not as substantial as they were in the earlier years.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the abatements referencing Resolutions 2011-3 and 2013-3 for Hisada. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**LB Mold Tax Abatement** – Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the tax abatement referencing Resolution 2014-5 for LB Mold. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2020-13 COVID-19 Extension** – Mr. Doane said this resolution extends the processes and safety precautions set forth by the council due to the COVID-19 public emergency through May 11, 2020. These measures could still be extended if necessary.

Councilman Piercefield asked if our restrictions could still be in place after the state lifts its restrictions.

Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said yes. The May 1<sup>st</sup> date set by the state falls in between meetings. The council could hold a special meeting but could also review the situation at the next scheduled council meeting.

Mr. Doane said this resolution refers strictly to the town's operations. Businesses in town would still be free to follow the state guidelines.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-13. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Unsafe Buildings** – Mr. Doane said he included with the packet pictures of some properties in the town that are unsafe and have become a nuisance. He gave a brief description of each of the properties. The town does have ordinance language in place to deal with nuisance properties.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to move forward with legal proceedings against the properties listed.

Mr. Doane said letters have been sent to property owners near the wastewater plant. He has received phone calls from other property owners thanking the town for taking action on the nuisance properties.

**CR900 Electric Project Bid Award** – Mr. Doane said the bid opening for this project has held last Monday. Jim Hill of Alpha Engineering reviewed the bids and Linetec Services was the low bidder at \$111,498.60

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to award the bid to Linetec Services for \$111,498.60. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**CR900 Electric Supplies** – Mr. Doane said we received another quote from Anixter for supplies for this project. Brownstown was still the low quote at \$35,885.91.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the quote from Brownstown for \$35,885.91. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Electric Superintendent Kevin Rubush (e) said he will contact the contractor to get the project underway.

**Cemetery Parking Lot** – Mr. Doane said we also received another quote for this project but is waiting for a third. Robertson is currently still the low quote at \$11,400.

President Simpson said he would like to award the quote to Robertson if we do not receive the other quote by May 1<sup>st</sup>. He would like to see the parking lot done by Memorial Day.

**Yard Waste Limbs/Brush Burn** – Mr. Doane said the yard waste site on CR700 has an excessive amount of brush. He would like the council to consider doing a burn at the site. The burn ordinance restricts this process without council approval.

Mr. Huddleston said the ordinance does have an exception for a controlled burn by the town.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve a one time burn at the yard waste site. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

**Railway Crossing Detail** – Mr. Doane said he discussed a funding opportunity at the previous council meeting. He provided a list of railroad crossings to INDOT but needs to know if the council would consider closing the crossing at Naomi. The railroad would be willing to compensate the town for closing the crossing.

Councilwoman Graham asked what the benefit was to the town.

Mr. Doane said crossings are the most dangerous points of a railroad so eliminating a crossing cuts down on the risk of an accident. The town would also be compensated by the railroad. They indicated that number could be \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Councilwoman Graham asked if any businesses are using that crossing.

Mr. Doane said it is by far the least utilized crossing in town.

Councilman Piercefield said he does not see it being an issue with the fire department. It will obviously inconvenience someone, but he would be in favor of potentially closing the crossing.

Mr. Doane said he would proceed forward and keep the council informed.

**Medical Office Building** – Mr. Huddleston said at the previous meeting the council approved notice to be published for lease proposals. The town received one proposal from Edinburgh Chiropractic, LLC. Tonight, the council's decision is whether to move forward with that entity. A basic lease has been drafted. The only change to the lease documents from Edinburgh Chiropractic is they wanted a three-year lease with two extensions for a possible total of 9 years.

Councilman Piercefield asked the attorney for Edinburgh Chiropractic, LLC, Casey Cloyde, if his client had any interest in purchasing the building.

Mr. Cloyde (e) said not at this time. His client is a new entity just formed to takeover Sweet Chiropractic. While they can appreciate the town wanting a one-year term with a 90 day termination clause, his client would need some certainty if they are going to try to grow a business.

Mr. Huddleston said there are still other terms that need to be put into the lease such as utilities, repairs, etc.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to start negotiations with Edinburgh Chiropractic, LLC for the lease of the medical building. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Vice President Graham to negotiate the terms of the lease. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

### Departmental Comments

Mr. Doane said the vac truck has had the 360 completed. Water Superintendent Bill Jones was present to explain the repairs.

Mr. Jones (e) said the transmission was repaired. The 360 revealed \$14,163 in other repairs. After those repairs, we should have a vehicle worth a lot more than they were going to give for trade.

Discussion was held regarding the repairs.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the repairs for the vac truck. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Doane said the deeds at Rest Haven Cemetery currently require council signatures.

Mr. Huddleston said statute says that the council conveys burial rights. The process in the past has been to sign the documents with a stamped signature. There is a way to delegate that authority to the cemetery superintendent through resolution.

Discussion was held regarding the previous process.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft a resolution to delegate that authority to the cemetery superintendent. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Doane thanked the town employees for their work during this public emergency.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if we had any takers on the grant we submitted for.

Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread said it was submitted last week but we have not heard back yet. OCRA is also rolling out a long-term strategy through a revolving fund.

Councilwoman Rooks thanked the employees for the participation in the appreciation parade for Johnson Memorial Hospital.

Ms. Drybread said Georg Utz, Inc. provided face shields to police and fire & EMS. The peer grant program with OCRA has been pushed back with the current situation. We will be holding virtual

meetings. She said the current climate makes it difficult to plan events. It causes a lot of frustration and they are starting to get a lot of questions about events.

Wastewater Superintendent Rebecca Frakes (e) said her staff worked on a 12-inch main collapse and had it repaired within one day. It had been damaged during the work on the retention basin. She said she appreciates the sense of community and sharing within departments within the town.

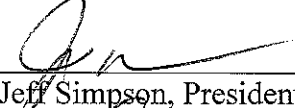
Mr. Jones (e) said the department finished flushing hydrants last week.

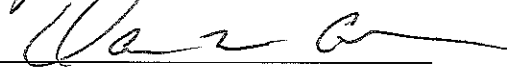
Golf Course General Manager Wayne Gibbs said the golf course is plugging along and will gently open as the state re-opens. They are having a lot of business, but it is actually about half the business they would normally have at this point in the year. Leagues are being pushed back further in the year.

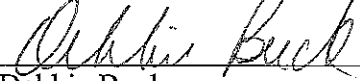
Parks Director Daniel Teter said the department will try to get programming planned as information gets pushed down from the state. Because of the lack of programming, the department has been able to make great strides in the ADA renovations. The LED sign is complete at the sports complex.

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

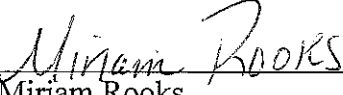
**EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Simpson, President


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Graham, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Buck

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Piercefield

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer