

Town Council Meeting
Monday September 27, 2021
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

Vice President Dawn Graham called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members answering roll call ((e) represents virtual attendance): Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilman Ryan Piercefield, and Vice President Dawn Graham. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, Town Manager Dan Cartwright, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston. President Jeff Simpson and Councilwoman Rooks were absent.

Minutes – Executive meeting of September 13, 2021, and council meeting of September 13, 2021. These minutes were tabled as there was not a quorum of members present at the last meeting.

Claims – The council received two claim dockets in their council packet. The first was an end-of-month docket for July totaling \$471,789.57 and the second was the regular docket for the period totaling \$810,134.94. 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 claims as submitted. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-17 Amending Ordinance 2021-9 ARP Fund (First Reading) – Mr. Huddleston said the town had previously passed an ordinance regarding the ARP COVID Relief funds. Some new information has come out and he wanted to make a few adjustments to the original ordinance.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2021-17 and consider it for approval. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-17. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-18 Final Adoption of 2022 Budget Appropriations and Tax Rate (First Reading) – Mr. Finley said the council received a copy of the Form 4 in their packet. The form shows the adopted budget amounts and the adopted tax rate. He explained that the rates would be inflated from what will actually be approved by the DLGF. He said the actual tax rate will most likely be similar to last year's rate.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2021-18 and consider it for approval. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-18. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Unsafe Building Discussion – Mr. Finley said the new Building and Zoning Official Robert Overton had brought to him a state statute regarding an unsafe building fund. He said the town currently has an unsafe building ordinance, but it needs to be updated to comply with current Indiana Codes and it does not establish a fund for fines and penalties to go into. He recommended having Mr. Huddleston review and draft an amended unsafe building ordinance.

Mr. Overton said the state code says any fees assessed to property owners regarding unsafe buildings would be deposited into an unsafe building fund which could pay for other unsafe buildings. This will help him with his code enforcement efforts.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to review and amend the town's unsafe building ordinance. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement – Fire Chief John Henderson said Chris Taylor is a part time employee at the fire department and also provides communications services to the town as well.

Mr. Finley said this is the standard conflict of interest disclosure statement. It is first approved by the council and then submitted through gateway to the SBOA.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest disclosure statement for Chris Taylor. Councilman Piercefield seconded. Motion carried.

Knox Box Discussion – Mr. Cartwright said the town is in the process of enforcing Knox Boxes on all commercial buildings. He said a Knox Box is put on the outside of a building with a key inside for emergency services to use in case of an emergency. This eliminates the need to break windows or doors for access to the building. He asked that Mr. Huddleston draft an ordinance requiring new commercial and industrial buildings have Knox Boxes.

Discussion was held regarding already existing buildings.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft an ordinance relating to Knox Boxes on commercial buildings. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Anexter Contract – Mr. Cartwright said this was presented at the last meeting but was tabled for the council to review. This would allow Anexter to install the smart meters already purchased by the town.

Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the Anexter Meter Installation contract. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Plan Contract – Mr. Cartwright said the town has been looking into an OCRA grant for the comprehensive plan. Our grant consultants have advised us to do a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance update at the same time. You cannot execute a contract until the grant has been awarded. He said the town will be getting a new proposal. At this time there is no action to take. We will revisit the plan in the spring.

Equipment Quotes – Parks Director Daniel Teter said the town is in need of a few new mowers to replace some of the aging fleet. He said we are looking at two 72-inch Dixie Choppers, one to be paid for by the Electric department and one to be paid for from the Water department. The parks department will operate and maintain the mowers, but they will be used to mow those facilities.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the purchase of two 72-inch Dixie Choppers for \$23,654. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Teter said the second set of mowers are Exmark Navigators for the cemetery. These have a box behind the mower to catch the clippings which will help with grass clippings on headstones. The prices were comparable between other brands, but Exmark parts are much easier to find.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the purchase of two Exmark Navigator mowers for \$26,398. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston said the town had filed legal action against Johnny Muncie. The town obtained a default judgment against Mr. Muncie for the full amount. This judgment allows the town to go in and clean up the property and charge the property owner for that cleanup after a 10-day period has lapsed.

Mr. Cartwright congratulated the Street department and Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread for putting together the 1st place parade float. The prize for that float was donated to the school corporation. The festival was a great success. He said the town closed on the property on the southside of town for the future fire department. The renovations have started on the building across from town hall and he is putting together an RFP to lease that building. Also, the architect has begun work on the design for the town hall expansion and aquatic center building. The 100% design meeting for the water department should be held in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Cartwright said the planning commission will be meeting on October 19th at the school cafeteria regarding the potential Timbergate development. He said the town has an issue with deterioration of utility poles and some are not structurally safe. He will be asking Alpha Engineering to put together an RFP for pole testing. The fire department has been working on a project to ensure all buildings in town have a visible address on them.

Departmental Comments

Fire Chief John Henderson said the town will be hosting the State Fire Marshall on October 7th along with several other departments in the area.

Mr. Teter said the festival was a huge success. He thanked the Lions Club and all the departments that assisted with the festival. He asked if the council had a preference on Trick-or-Treating hours this year. Halloween falls on Sunday this year and some communities are moving festivities to the Saturday before.

Councilwoman Buck said she has had a few people ask her about moving it to Saturday. She said she would be in favor of having Trick-or-Treating hours on Saturday.

Town Marshall Doyne Little said everyone is going to be out on the 31st either way. He thinks it will be tough to change to the 30th.

The council asked Mr. Teter to have a proposal ready at the next meeting for a vote.

Councilman Piercefield asked if the Police department has had any inquiries for UTV registrations.

Mr. Little said he would like to draft an ordinance to amend the golf cart ordinance to allow UTV. He will present that ordinance to the council.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones said he and Dalton Hudson received a grant to attend the 811 conference in November at no cost to the town.

Public Comments

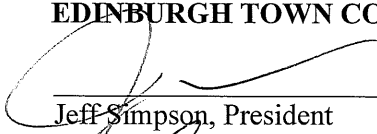
Evelyn Pence of Edinburgh Flower and Gift said the tree in front of El Jefe Mexican Restaurant is stressed and needs watered. They need to be fertilized and watered with about 5 gallons of water.

Councilman Piercefield said the type of tree that was put downtown was probably not ideal for the location. He said he believes they are getting too big for the area. He proposed we try to save them if we can, but if we have to take them out to go with something smaller and easier to maintain. He thanked Ms. Pence for bringing this issue to the council.

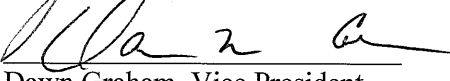
Lisa Johnson of 506 East Campbell Street said her son is a skateboarder and it would be nice if there was a safe place in town for kids to skate. She said anything from an empty building to a vacant piece of land. She said her son was part of the reconstruction of the Columbus Skate Park. She has seen several other kids walking with skateboards with no place to skate.

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

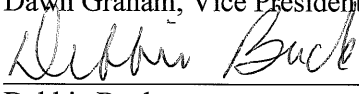
EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL



Jeff Simpson, President

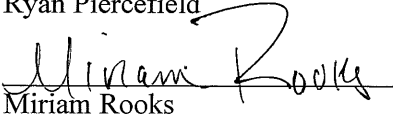


Dawn Graham, Vice President



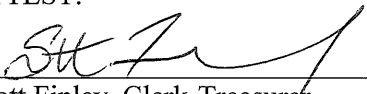
Debbie Buck

Ryan Piercefield



Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:



Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer