

Town Council Meeting
July 22, 2024
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, July 22, 2024, at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

Council President Ryan Piercefield called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Answering Roll Call: Councilman Michael Bryant, Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, and Council President Ryan Piercefield.

Councilwoman Sherri Sweet was absent.

Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

Minutes- Minutes of Town Council Meeting July 8, 2024.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve July 8, 2024, Council Meeting minutes. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of Executive Meeting July 13, 2024.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve July 13, 2024, Executive Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of Executive Meeting July 17, 2024.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve July 17, 2024, Executive Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented one claim docket in the amount of \$1,070,545.79.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the presented claim docket in the amount of \$1,070,545.79. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Johnson County Board of Commissioners Resolution 2024-R-0- Attorney Huddleston discussed the Resolution from the Johnson County Board of Commissioners related to the Opioid settlement. Throughout the state of IN and municipalities drug makers have allocated money in a settlement agreement with restricted and unrestricted funds. With restricted funding, drug programs are to be created to help alleviate issues with drug problems. Johnson County has approached all municipalities and stated that with the restricted funds that comes to the county, they are creating a county wide program and would like to make an interlocal agreement with Edinburgh. Edinburgh would have a position on the board and help create a countywide drug program that pools the money collected from all the municipalities involved.

Johnson County Board of Commissioners Attorney Adam Gadberry was available by phone to answer any questions. The council had no questions for Attorney Gadberry.

Attorney Huddleston stated that once the Resolution is approved at the Johnson County Commissioner's level, we will have a similar agreement resolution presented. There is no action required by the council tonight.

Ordinance 2024-12 Rezoning Certain Property (2nd Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated this was discussed at the previous Town Council meeting on July 8, 2024. This is a petition from Richard Elbert to rezone the subject property from R5 to medium density residential to RB roadside business. The planning commission gave a favorable recommendation subject to one condition, that the property owner obtain an access permit from the Indiana Department of Transportation to have direct access to US 31. Staff recommendation is for approval.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-12 Rezoning Certain Property. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-13 Amending Chapter 93 Garbage and Trash (2nd Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated this was introduced at the previous Town Council meeting on July 8, 2024. There were updates made to some language in the town's existing garbage and trash ordinance after Attorney Huddleston's review.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-13 Amending Chapter 93 Garbage and Trash. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-17 Sewer Hydro Excavator Lease- Attorney Huddleston presented Resolution 2024-17 Sewer Hydro Excavator Lease. This would be a cooperative purchase agreement with Brown Equipment Company. Through purchasing from Sourcewell, we received a discount of \$17,000 so a bidding process was not needed.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-17 Sewer Hydro Excavator Lease. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Request for Proposals to Lease Real Property- Attorney Huddleston presented the request for proposals to lease real property for the former fire station building located at 203 S Walnut Street.

Attorney Huddleston stated that previous advertising for the lease of the entire building produced no proposals. The advertisement was modified and reran for the lease of a partial of the building and one proposal was received from Ryan Piercefield, not as council president, but as a civilian.

Attorney Huddleston reminded the Council that before the process to lease the property was started, they disclosed the Conflict of Interest for Ryan.

Attorney Huddleston stated that this is the only bid received and the council has the right to accept or reject the bid.

Ryan Piercefield stated that the proposal is to use the building to store equipment and material for his personal business to get equipment out of the weather. Ryan stated that his business runs 24/7 and activity at the building would be similar to the fire station activity.

Councilwoman Buck asked if the proposal was for half of the building.

Ryan stated that the proposal is for the whole building as there was an issue with insurance not wanting to provide coverage on only part of the building.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Attorney Huddleston to draft a lease agreement for the fire station building located at 203 South Walnut Street to Piercefield Contractors. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried. Ryan recused from voting.

Insight Pipe Contracting St Rd 252 Sewer Lining & Repair Agreement- Attorney Huddleston stated this is a construction agreement that he prepared on the bid that was awarded to Insight Pipe Contracting at the prior Town Council meeting on July 8, 2024. Attorney Huddleston said the agreement will need to be approved and will need approval for Ryan to sign, he will then send the agreement to contractor for their approval. The agreement is for sewer lining and repair on State Road 252. The bid is under the projected cost.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Insight Pipe Contracting St Rd 252 Sewer Lining & Repair Agreement. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Council president Piercefield to sign off on the Insight Pipe Contracting St Rd 252 Sewer Lining & Repair Agreement. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

MA Metal Tax Abatement Request- Planning Director Julie Young presented MA Metal's tax abatement request. They are requesting a 10-year real property and 10-year personal property tax abatement.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to draft a resolution for the MA Metal tax abatement request. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

St Rd 252 Line Relocation Bid Award- Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated there was a bid opening two weeks ago, to relocate all electric facilities to go underground from Eisenhower Drive all the way through to the railroad tracks. The bid is predominantly for labor only with the exception of the bidder providing sdr poly or conduit depending on whether trenching or boring. Superintendent Clark stated that ElectriCom was substantially lower than all bids. Alpha Engineering has worked with ElectriCom in the past and gave a favorable recommendation for their bid. Superintendent Clark asked for the Councils approval to award the bid to ElectriCom.

President Piercefield asked how much is going underground.

Superintendent Clark stated that all the poles immediately adjacent to State Road 252, from the bait shop to the other side of the railroad tracks.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Attorney Huddleston to draft the contract for the St Rd 252-line relocation bid award to ElectriCom in the amount of \$759,521.57. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

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Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated they also have several miscellaneous materials that still need to be purchased for this project. The cost of the supplies from Brownstown is \$59,186.72. Superintendent Clark is requesting approval to purchase these materials.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve the purchase of the materials needed in the amount of \$59,186.72. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

Request to Dispose of 2005 Vector Truck- Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie informed the council that the 2005 Vector truck is constantly being worked on for various reasons. Superintendent Jessie is requesting to sell the 2005 Vector truck on GovDeals.com.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve selling the 2005 Vector Truck on GovDeals.com. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Police Chief Doyne Little announced that they are working on a reckless motorcycle complaint they received via Facebook.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated there was a difficult call on US 31 where a good Samaritan was hit and killed after trying to help a citizen whose car was broke down on the side of the road.

Fire Chief Justin Lollar requested to spend \$41,201.47 out of the public safety fund to purchase the equipment needed for the new fire engine.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Chief Lollar's request to spend \$41,201.47 on equipment needed for the new fire engine. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried.

Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated he received a polite email from one of the commercial customers on the south end of town about the new electric rates. Superintendent Clark stated that this customer asked if there is any forgiveness or type of plan that the council would offer to spread this out as their profit margins are tight.

Council President Piercefield asked for clarification as to our losing money on previous rates.

Superintendent Clark stated that the previous rate was \$8.50 per KVA for this rate class and we have been paying \$23.00+ per KVA to purchase the power. The new rate is \$21.67 per KVA which is still slightly less than what we pay for it, but averages will cover itself out.

Council President Piercefield asked that the CEO or company representative come to a Town Council meeting to make their request or to submit something in writing on what they are requesting.

Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated at the next Town Council meeting there will be discussion about a BAN, short-term loan, for September financing of \$10-12 million that should get them all the way through their substation.

Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark notified that he currently has three open positions: one assistant, one apprentice, and one journeyman. He stated that job postings for an apprentice and journeyman are advertised.

Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated that he has been working with Alpha Engineering and discussed an upcoming bid process for the new substation and wanted to make the Council and Attorney Huddleston aware that this process will be starting soon.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated the public has asked about washing the north water tower. Discussion was held concerning when the water tower was last cleaned and painted. Jones stated he has already received one bid in the amount of \$8900 for cleaning and is waiting on two others and is requesting the council's direction on whether or not to proceed.

Council President Piercefield recommends holding off on washing the north water tower for now.

Community Development Director Sarabeth Drybread received a second appraisal for 201 West Main Cross that is currently owned by Johnson Memorial Hospital. Drybread would like to communicate with JMH about the process. Director Drybread asked if there will be a Resolution for the August 12th, 2024, Town Council meeting so she can let JMH know.

Attorney Huddleston stated that he will have a resolution ready for the August 12th meeting.

President Piercefield asked when JMH was going to remove the building.

Director Drybread stated she has someone locally who can take the building off the property and wants to know what the Town would need from the individual to remove the building.

President Piercefield stated it would be easier if JMH still owned the property when the building was taken off it.

Attorney Huddleston stated that if the resolution is approved, then a purchase agreement needs to be made.

Director Drybread confirmed she will contact JMH about that.

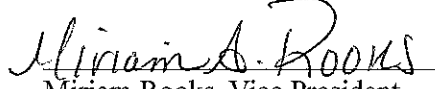
Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

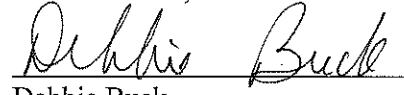
These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Edinburgh Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffQyWphtcPehlL-R5g> for as long as this media is supported.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

Ryan Piercefield, President




Miriam Rooks, Vice President



Debbie Buck

Sherri Sweet



Michael Bryant

ATTEST:



Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer