Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 14, 2026, 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.

Roll Call- Council President Ryan Piercefield, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

Councilwoman Debbie Buck was absent.

Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett, and Town Manager John Myers.

Minutes- Council Meeting August 24, 2026

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the August 24, 2026, Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Council President Piercefield abstained as he was not in attendance at the August 24, 2026, meeting.

Special Meeting August 24, 2026

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Augus 24, 2026, Special Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Council President Piercefield abstained as he was not in attendance at the August 24, 2026, meeting.

Special Meeting August 31, 2026

Council President stated that this will have to be tabled as they do not have a full quorum present that is able to vote on this as Councilwoman Sweet and Councilman Bryant were not in attendance at the August 31, 2026, special meeting.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented one claim docket in the amount of $1,148,965.05. All claims have been reviewed and signed.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the claim docket as presented in the amount of $1,148,965.05. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2026-10 Designating Depositories for CDs (1st Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this was discussed at the previous Council meeting and updates the current ordinance to do CD investing. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this updates the bank names. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the first reading can be waived.

Discussion was held regarding the banks listed in the ordinance having to be within a certain distance from the Town.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she completed paperwork today from Horizon Bank to change the Town's sweep account to a tiered investment account, increasing the interest from 0.95% to 3.55%.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2026-10 Designating Depositories for CDs. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-10 Designating Depositories for CDs. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolution 2026-11 Reduction of Appropriation- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this reduces the appropriations for the MVH restricted by $286,100. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this was not needed for the total budget this year and leaves the cash in there for the 2027 budget.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-11 Reduction of Appropriation. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolution 2026-12 Reimbursement on Sewage Works- Attorney Huddleston stated that at the previous meeting the Council approved Wessler's Preliminary Engineering Report subject to Attorney

Huddleston's review. Attorney Huddleston stated that this resolution provides a reimbursement plan for a loan to wastewater of $400,000 - $500,000 for immediate fixes that need to be done right now. Attorney Huddleston stated that this does anticipate that the Council will issue bonds to pay this back.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-12 Reimbursement on Sewage Works. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Bose McKinney and Evans Engagement Letter on Sewage Works Bond- Attorney Huddleston stated that this letter engages the Town's typical bond council that has done work for the Town before. Attorney Huddleston stated that this does not commit to a bond and is just engaging their services to start the process. Attorney Huddleston stated that the process will not start until Wessler completes their part to identify the total costs for the project.

Discussion was held regarding not knowing the timeline until Wessler completes their part.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Bose McKinney and Evans Engagement Letter on Sewage Works Bond. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Bose McKinney and Evans Engagement Letter on Sewage Works Bond. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Modification of Walnut Street Lease- Attorney Huddleston stated that this was discussed at a previous Council meeting to review all the Town's current property leases to third parties to modify any nonconformities excluding rental value. Attorney Huddleston stated that the Walnut Street property's repair section in the lease did not match the Town's other commercial property's lease. Attorney Huddleston stated that this amendment matches the repair terms for the Walnut Street property to the other commercial property.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Modification of Walnut Street Lease. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Council President Piercefield abstained.

Approval of Public Official Bond- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented two public official bonds for Police Pension Secretary, Hector Mercado, and Firefighter Pension Secretary, John Henderson. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that both bonds are for $15,000. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Mr. Mercado's effective dates are September 17, 2026, through September 17, 2027. Mr. Henderson's effective dates are September 19, 2026, through September 19, 2027.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Public Official Bonds as presented for Hector Mercado and John Henderson. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Wessler Invoice #50474 for Water Treatment Plant- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Wessler Invoice #50474 in the amount of $7,501.64 for engineering services. Water Superintendent Bill Jones has reviewed and approves.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice #50474 for Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign the Wessler Invoice #50474 for Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Kleinpeter Consulting Invoice #2281- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Kleinpeter Consulting Invoice #2281 in the amount of $9,833. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Kleinpeter Consulting was used to complete the SRF labor standards compliance for the water hydrant and valves project.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve Kleinpeter Consulting Invoice #2281 in the amount of $9,833 as presented. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize President Piercefield to sign off on Kleinpeter Consulting Invoice #2281. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Employee Training Agreement- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this was discussed at the previous Council meeting for Accounts Receivable Emily Cravens to receive HR training. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there was discussion regarding the differences between a certificate from SHRM or HRCI. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the SHRM includes more training and was highly recommended by the

Town's liability insurance representative. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett requested the Council approve the employee training agreement for the SHRM-CP training and the ADP Payroll Specialist Certified training.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Employee Training Agreement for Emily Cravens. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Employee Training Agreement for Emily Cravens. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Trick or Treat Hours- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that in 2024 the trick or treat hours were 6:00PM-8:30PM and in 2025 they were 6:00PM-8:00PM. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Halloween is on a Saturday this year.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated that they were fine doing two hours last year and it would make it easier every year to have the same hours.

Council President Piercefield to set this year's Trick or Treat Hours 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

K9 Golf Outing Donations- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented a total of $1,050 in donations from Champion Zone USA, Bonkerz/Charm Petroleum, Shell, Ditech, 31 Auto, and 550 Foundation.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the K9 Golf Outing Donations totaling $1,050. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Colonial Life Insurance Plans- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that they met with Colonial Life representatives about Tuned which is a new insurance they offer for a virtual hearing benefit. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that it is a two-year contract with the first year being free to all full-time employees and the second-year total being $12 for each full-time employee. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the company wants to be able to come and present three other voluntary types of plans for employees that would be at no cost to the Town. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed the Town picking up the cost for each employee for the second year which would total approximately $780 for the year with 65 full-time employees.

Discussion was held regarding whether the cost would increase annually.

Discussion was held regarding what types of plans the company wants to present to employees.

Discussion was held regarding whether they had looked at any other companies.

Discussion was held regarding whether the company would have a meeting with employees annually regarding voluntary plans.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Colonial Life Insurance Plans (voluntary) to be offered to full time employees as presented. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the costs for the Colonial Life virtual hearing benefit for $12 per full-time employee annually be picked up by the Town. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Employee Training Agreement- Timbergate Manager Wayne Gibbs stated that Council approved Attorney Huddleston to draft an employee training agreement for Javan Johnson to obtain a PGA membership. Manager Gibbs stated that this is to approve the drafted agreement.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Employee Training Agreement for Javan Johnson. Councilman Bruyant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the Employee Training Agreement for Javan Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.

Equipment Purchase Drum Mulcher- Timbergate Manager Wayne Gibbs requested to purchase a drum mulcher from Skid Pro Attachments in the amount of $19,390.00. Manager Gibbs stated that with all the homes in the golf course now they want to clean some of the areas up and the drum mulcher can do more than a regular bush hog can. Manager Gibbs stated that the drum mulcher can be used by other departments as well.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve the Drum Mulcher Equipment Purchase from Skid Pro Attachments in the amount of $19,390. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Stellar Pathways Update- Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that they met with Mike Kleinpeter of Kleinpeter Consulting and discussed the FAQ packet for Stellar Pathways. The packet breaks down each of the state agencies involved, funds available and eligible projects. Director Drybread discussed that a team of three to seven people are needed to spearhead this project that can commit to the demands through project development, grant writing, community data input and working with various partners on matching funds. Director Drybread stated that the team would need to attend workshops at the end of October 2026. Director Drybread discussed receiving the peer grant through OCRA in 2019. Director Drybread discussed how Rushville had to build a similar team and who they picked. Director Drybread discussed the importance of community input on the application for the Stellar Grant. Director Drybread stated that she has come up with a very rough draft of potential projects for the Town. Director Drybread asked the Council to look at the eligible projects, come up with others that aren't on the list, and help prioritize writing the story as to why this grant is important for our community.

Discussion was held regarding whether one of the team members needs to be a Town Council member. Director Drybread asked the council to email her with their input on what is priority for the grant.

15kV Circuit Breakers for Industrial Substation Purchase Recommendation- Logan Sweeney with Alpha Engineering recommended the purchase of eight 15kV circuit breakers from ABB/Brownstown in the amount of $434,809.72. Mr. Sweeney stated that this piece of equipment is essential for operation and maintenance of the substation and is a single source item, so there is no way to receive multiple proposals for this equipment.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the 15kV Circuit Breakers for Industrial Substation Purchase Recommendation from ABB/Brownstown in the amount of $434,809.72. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Switch Package for Industrial Substation Purchase Recommendation- Logan Sweeney with Alpha Engineering recommended the purchase of a switch package from MacLean Power Systems/Royal in the amount of $342,560 which was the lowest of three quotes which were a wide range. Mr. Sweeney stated that this is another essential piece of equipment essential for operation and maintenance of the substation.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Switch Package for Industrial Substation Purchase Recommendation from MacLean Power Systems/Roy in the amount of $342,560. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Pixy Forever Foundation Letter of Support- Jeremy VanAndell, one of the founders of the Pixy Forever Foundation, discussed that he is here on behalf of the nonprofit to purchase, preserve, and operate the Pixy Theatre. Mr. VanAndell requested a letter of support from the Town. Mr. VanAndell discussed that he is a professor at Franklin College and brought a group of students to Edinburgh to see downtown and what developments are happening. Mr. VanAndell discussed what he pictured the Pixy should look like on a busy Friday evening. Mr. VanAndell discussed his background in economic development. Mr. VanAndell discussed people that they have been working with, including Rob Schultz with the Artcraft Theatre and Kim Casting with the Johnson County Community Foundation. Mr. VanAndell stated that they will possibly be able to take possession of the Pixy by the end of October. Mr. VanAndell discussed that forming a nonprofit ensures that there is a team making decisions on behalf of the building and its operations. Mr. VanAndell stated that Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread has joined their board and provides local insight and community connections. Mr. VanAndell discussed that this is intended to be a community-based operation and gave examples of other local theatres. Mr. VanAndell discussed some of the repairs needed. Mr. VanAndell discussed that they believe an active and restored Pixy Theatre must be part of the playbook for Edinburgh's future thriving. Mr. VanAndell requested the letter of support from the Town that indicates the Town will work with the Pixy board members to enhance downtown by enhancing the theatre. Mr. VanAndell stated that this letter is a required part of their application for support from the Johnson County Community Foundation.

Kim Casting, CEO of the Johnson County Community Foundation, gave a background on their organization and other items in Edinburgh they have helped with.

Councilwoman Sweet stated that this is exciting and is something that will definitely anchor our town and be a place for people to go for generations to come.

Rob Schultz, with Franklin Heritage and the Artcraft Theatre, discussed Franklin Heritage's background in restoring houses. Mr. Schultz discussed Franklin Heritage restoring the Artcraft Theatre and some of the different events they hold there now. Mr. Schultz stated that he knows they can assist the Pixy and

help pick them up. Mr. Schultz discussed that restoring the Pixy will help bring people to town and discussed other theatres they have assisted in restoring.

Discussion was held regarding whether Attorney Huddleston has reviewed this letter and that the Town is not committing to any funding.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the Pixy Forever Foundation Letter of Support. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Driftwood Utilities- Jason Newton with Driftwood Utilities stated that they have hit a snag on the project to allow Driftwood Utilities to connect to Edinburgh's wastewater and they are running out of time. Mr. Newton asked if the Council is willing to be their town representative as they do not have the authority to apply for an OCRA grant or SRF funding since they are not incorporated. Mr. Newton stated that they thought they had it set up with the City of Columbus, but they have already exhausted their grant applications. Mr. Newton stated that if they miss the October 4, 2026, deadline to apply for the grant, the project will be pushed back another year. Mr. Newton stated that in the meantime, they will have to go to Indiana Bond Bank to secure financing for this project. Mr. Newton stated that this project is going to happen whether they get the grant or not. Mr. Newton stated that because of the timing, they need the Town to commit tonight to be their pathway and discussed that there is no liability commitment or financial obligation. Mr. Newton stated that they are only using the Town's status to submit the forms to apply for the OCRA grant. Mr. Newton stated that this would take away one of the Town's three grant options. Mr. Newton stated that SRF funding is another option, but they would still have to have the Town involved with that as well.

Council President Piercefield discussed the urgency of this and stated that this project has been discussed before. President Piercefield stated that Driftwood Utilities is not asking for any financial obligation from the Town.

Mr. Newton stated that their arrangement with the Town is to have a better sewer rate for a certain time period to allow them to pay back their infrastructure costs.

President Piercefield stated that Driftwood reached out to him today regarding this and that it is a board decision to allow Driftwood to advertise for a public hearing which is what they are trying to achieve tonight.

Mr. Newton discussed that they would have official paperwork for the Council and Attorney Huddleston to review by the next Council meeting.

Discussion was held regarding whether this was the same OCRA grant that had been discussed at a previous Council meeting with the grant writer for the Town's wastewater plant.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that this would be the latest block grant and that Stellar Pathways would not interfere with this.

Discussion was held regarding whether this would affect the Town's ability to apply for grants.

Discussion was held regarding how the interconnection with Eastern Bartholomew was funded.

President Piercefield stated that this keeps the process moving and that the Council is not signing anything tonight.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked if this takes points away from the Town if they want to apply for an OCRA grant through Stellar Pathways,

Director Drybread stated that they would need to ask Mike Kleinpeter with Kleinpeter Consulting who is our OCRA liason.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that her concern would be if Driftwood Utilities put the Town's name as their sponsor, if that would prevent the Town from getting any grants the Town needs through the program.

Economic Development Director Drybread stated that this should not let that effect the Council's decision tonight.

President Piercefield stated that he does not understand why we would have points deducted when the Town is not actually getting the funds.

Planning Director Julie Young stated that if Driftwood applies for an OCRA grant under the Town of Edinburgh's name, then there is a period of time that the Town would not be eligible to apply for the same type of OCRA money without being docked points in that category. Director Young stated that if the Town of Edinburgh lends their name to Driftwood utilities to apply for OCRA , then there would be a time period for which Edinburgh could not apply for the same wastewater funding without being penalized funding. Director Young stated that you cannot apply for wastewater funding from OCRA for CDBG funds.

Economic Development Director Drybread asked Mr. Newton if this project would happen regardless of if they apply for the OCRA grant.

Mr. Newton confirmed that the project is happening and further discussed that they did not want to pursue SRF funding because there is an additional cost up front as well as the wage cost improvement that would add approximately $270,000 to the project. Mr. Newton discussed that the City of Columbus does not know about this scenario yet and they would like to keep it that way. Mr. Newton stated that they will need a 100% answer at the next Council meeting but are going to go ahead and have their public hearing. Mr. Newton further stated they will still need the Town's blessing at some point to go to the Indiana Bond Bank as they will need a town liaison or partnership with the town for financing with the Bond Bank.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked if Driftwood goes through Indiana Bond Bank with the Town as their sponsor, if and how that would affect the Town.

Mr. Newton stated that the liability would still fall back on Driftwood, but it would be a good question to ask.

Discussion was held regarding letting Attorney Huddleston investigate this and contacting Mike Kleinpeter.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to investigate the Town being a pathway for Driftwood Utilities proposal. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

President Piercefield asked that someone internal contact Mike Kleinpeter.

Other Business

Councilwoman Sweet thanked the Main Street Association for the Rubber Duck Regatta they held. Councilwoman Sweet stated that the elementary school's duck came in 3rd out of 212 ducks.

Councilwoman Rooks thanked everyone in advance for their hard work for this week's Fall Festival.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she is excited about the Pixy theater project and that she and her husband have traveled to restored theatres for concerts before.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated that they have met regarding the reversed route for the parade on Saturday and that it has been put out on social media. Chief Little stated that Attorney Huddleston has reviewed and made minor changes to the PIT policy discussed at a previous Council meeting.

Attorney Huddleston stated that it will need to be put on the next Council agenda.

Chief Little thanked Timbergate and the police officers for their hard work for the K9 golf outing.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated that the Rubber Duck Regatta was a good event and that Main Street will be full of carnival workers tomorrow setting up for the fall festival.

Street Superintendent Sean Barnett stated that they have been helping with the festival and that it will be a busy week.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread thanked the community partners for being present at tonight's meeting to discuss the Pixy. Director Drybread stated that if the Pixy ends up being anything like the Artcraft in Franklin, it will be phenomenal. Director Drybread stated that they have an upcoming meeting with RVI to discuss the next steps for the Plaza.

Public Comment

Lynn Patton with Edinburgh Main Street stated that the Rubber Duck Regatta was their first event and are very happy with how it turned out. Ms. Patton thanked the Town for their help and support. Ms. Patton stated that they had a goal to sell 60 ducks but ended up selling 227 ducks. Ms. Patton stated that she is very excited about the Pixy.

Ms. Patton stated that she is the owner of 113 E Main Cross Street and asked if there was an update on the building that is falling down next door to her. Ms. Patton discussed that they have cleaned up the area themselves before their bike ride.

Council President Piercefield stated that the Council does not want to own the building, but it needs to be safe. President Piercefield stated that he believes letters have been sent to the property owner, but he is not sure where it stands.

Ms. Patton asked about options to force the owner to do something with the building and stated that there is a sinkhole forming in the alley.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that she received an email from Indiana Landmarks today about the building, so things are still moving.

Ms. Patton stated that it feels like the other downtown building owners do not have anyone fighting to make sure things get taken care of and that she hopes no one gets hurt.

Rob Schultz with Franklin Heritage and Artcraft Theatre, stated that in Kendallville they put together an ordinance regarding the same problems, that one of the Landmark affiliates found a way to work around that.

Miranda Finley, 504 S Main St, stated that she is thrilled that people are looking to invest into our community. Ms. Finley discussed that it is her and her husband's dream to be able to walk out their front door and be able to grab food or a drink without having to get into their car and drive to the next city over. Ms. Finley discussed that it makes her proud to do her job with the Community Foundation and to be a resident here. Ms. Finley thanked the Council for their support.

Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Edinburgh Town Council meeting. The full video archive of meetings 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

Miriam Rooks, Vice President

Abstain

Debbie Buck

Sherri Sweet

Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett

Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer