Special Council Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2026
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a special session on Monday, August 31, 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, and Councilwoman Debbie Buck.

Councilwoman Sherri Sweet and Councilman Michael Bryant were absent.

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

Resolution 2026-9 Determining Surplus Property Regarding Banners- Attorney Huddleston stated that this is to be able to sell the Firecracker Festival banners as discussed at the last Council meeting.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-9 Determining Surplus Property Regarding Banners. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution 2026-10 Determining Surplus Property Regarding Police Vehicle- Attorney Huddleston stated that this is to donate one of the old police vehicles to Edinburgh Community School as discussed at the last Council meeting.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 Determining Surplus Property Regarding Police Vehicle. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Modification of Walnut Street Lease- Council President Piercefield stated that this is going to be tabled tonight.

Credit Card Processing Fees Discussion- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this was discussed at a previous Council meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she checked with surrounding communities and most of them pass their credit card fees onto the customer. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that one of the fees is 3.75% of a person's bill with a $2.50 minimum for the first $67. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she checked, and they cannot charge just a flat $2.50 fee to the customer. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that for 2025 the Town spent $147,000 on credit card processing fees. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that there is also an online fee of $1.25 per transaction. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the software company does offer an eCheck option with a fee of $1.95 for the customer.

Discussion was held regarding the other payment options available that would not have a credit card fee such as paying in person with a check or cash, signing up for direct withdrawal from a checking account, or putting a check in the drop box.

Councilwoman Rooks stated that she feels credit card fees are a part of everyday life now. Customers do have other options to pay such as cash or check.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to pass the $1.25 online payment fee onto the customer. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to pass the 3.75% credit card processing fee onto the customer. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion was held regarding the fees to start being paid by the customer in October possibly and how the change would be communicated to the public via social media and flyers.

Employee Training Agreement- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Accounts Receivable Emily Cravens has shown an interest in human resources and would like to obtain the SHRM-CP certification and a separate certification through ADP to become a certified payroll specialist. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the approximate total cost for both training courses is $2,500 and discussed the cost breakdown. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Ms. Cravens is willing to sign an employment agreement. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed that she has been a big proponent for everybody to receive more training to be more efficient in their job.

Councilwoman Rooks stated that she had no problem with it.

Councilwoman Buck asked if they had looked into a HRCI certificate instead of SHRM due to it being cheaper.

Discussion was held regarding Ms. Cravens's current job title and the point of her receiving a certificate in human resources.

Discussion was held regarding the HRCI certificate being approximately $700-$800 cheaper than the SHRM.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed the ADP certification being able to give a broader understanding of the ADP system.

Councilwoman Buck asked for Clerk-Treasurer Barrett and Ms. Cravens to look more into the HRCI certification.

Designated Depositories Ordinance 2012-10 Update- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that she has been having conversations with different investment firms about investing some funds. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the Town's most recent investment ordinance was done in 2012, and it has old bank names and states that it is only good for two years. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that it needs updated with the current bank names and requested Attorney Huddleston look at the ordinance to update it. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that this must be updated before she purchases any CDs.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to update the Designated Depositories Ordinance 2012-10. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Wessler Engineering Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report- Council President Piercefield stated that Attorney Huddleston has not reviewed this yet but the Town has done a lot of business with Wessler so he feels that the Council can go ahead and approve it subject to Attorney Huddleston's review.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Wessler Engineering Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report subject to Attorney Huddleston's review. President Piercefield seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize President Piercefield to sign off on the Wessler Engineering Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Budget Workshop- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that Scott Finley with Baker Tilly gave a breakdown of suggested budget cuts at the previous, and in the general fund a cut of $87,700 was suggested. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed the changes made to reduce the general fund budget.

Discussion was held regarding the errors made when they initially prepared the Police budget.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed the cuts suggested by Baker Tilly to the Park & Rec Budget in the amount of $65,741. Part-time salaries, fica and equipment were reduced for 2027 to meet the suggested cuts within $841.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett discussed the budget for the new Building Fund

Mr. Finley discussed the MVH/MVH restricted funds being a combined fund and recommended doing a reduction of the 2026 Budget by $286,000 for cash purposes for the 2027 budget.

Discussion was held regarding the timeline of the reduced appropriations.

Discussion was held regarding the date of the public hearing being September 28th and adoption of the 2027 budget on October 12th.

Discussion was held regarding what was cut from the Park and Rec budgets.

Other Business

Town Manager John Myers discussed payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and stated that the Town used to do it. Mr. Myers stated that PILOT is where the utilities pay the Town a yearly fee instead of taxes.

Discussion was held regarding how the electric utility was the only one that participated in PILOT when the Town used to do it, but all three utilities can do it.

Scott Finley with Baker Tilly said that Baker Tilly would need to look at the utility financials to determine the amount of Pilot for each utility.

Councilwoman Rooks asked Town Manager Myers to get more information for the next meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked how the Council wanted to proceed with the loan to the wastewater department from the electric department.

Discussion was held regarding the length of the loan and that interest does not have to be charged.

Discussion was held regarding approximately how much the Wessler contract will cost wastewater.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to prepare the resolution for a loan to the Wastewater from the Electric. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Daniel Teter stated that the Joseph Fund received a check this morning from the Town and purchased the lots from the cemetery. Mr. Teter thanked the Council for their donation.

Director of Economic Development SaraBeth Drybread stated that they have a meeting this week with Mike Kleinpeter about the Stellar Pathways program.

Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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, Vice President

Debbie Buck

Abstain
Sherri Sweet

Abstain
Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer