Town Council Meeting
December 29, 2025
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, December 29, 2025, 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 Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

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

Minutes- Council Meeting December 8, 2025

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the December 8, 2025, Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilwoman Buck and Councilman Bryant abstained.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented two claim dockets: the end of month docket for October in the amount of $190,808.29 and the claim docket for tonight in the amount of $1,812,895.83. All claims have been reviewed and signed. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the biggest portion of the claim docket for tonight was the invoice for Robertson's Paving for this year's paving.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the two claim dockets as presented in the amounts of $190,808.29 and $1,812,895.83. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2025-16 Amending Chapter 74 Regarding Traffic in Certain Alley (2nd Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated this was amended from original version per request to only prevent truck and tractor traffic from this alley.

Councilwoman Rooks stated that she will not make a motion for it as she is against the ordinance.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to deny Ordinance 2025-16 Amending Chapter 74 Regarding Traffic in Certain Alley. Councilwoman Sweet seconded.

Roll Call vote for motion to deny Ordinance 2025-16 Amending Chapter 74 Regarding Traffic in Certain Alley: Council President Piercefield voted nay, Councilwoman Rooks voted yea, Councilwoman Buck voted yea, Councilwoman Sweet voted yea, and Councilman Bryant voted yea. Motion carried 4-1 to deny Ordinance 2025-16 Amending Chapter 74 Regarding Traffic in Certain Alley.

Ordinance 2025-20 Amending Salary Ordinance (2nd Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated this was introduced at the previous Council meeting for 2026 salaries.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-20 Amending Salary Ordinance. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2025-21 Transfer of Appropriations (2nd Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated this was introduced at the previous Council meeting and is done annually at the end of the year to clear up any of the accounts that might be in the credit.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-21 Transfer of Appropriations. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2025-22 Amending Ordinance 2024-27 Fee Schedule (1st Reading)- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett introduced the updated amounts for the 2026 fee schedule. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated once the ordinance is approved it must be advertised, and it will take 30 days for the fees to go into effect.

Councilwoman Buck asked why fees related to youth baseball were increasing.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated there was previous discussion about making incremental increases every so often rather than making big increases. Director Teter stated that the increases were limited to $5.

Discussion was held regarding when the last increase was and if it was necessary. Director Teter stated that it is something he can look at and provide the Council with more information.

Council President Piercefield stated that this was the first reading only.

Resolution 2025-18 Board Appointments Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Joint Planning Commission, Joint Board of Zoning Appeals, Redevelopment Commission, Redevelopment Authority, Economic Development Board, and Storm Water Board- Council President Piercefield stated Councilwoman

Rooks has been working on this. Councilwoman Rooks gave an update on who would be appointed to these boards per Resolution 2025-18, Ron Hoffman and Keith Sells appointed to Edinburgh Planning Commission with term ending 12/31/29, Ron Hoffman appointed to Joint Planning Commission with term ending 12/31/28, Daniel Teter appointed to Joint Board of Zoning Appeals with term ending 12/31/29, Karen Fitzpatrick and Keith Sells appointed to Edinburgh Zoning Board of appeals with term ending 12/31/29, Karen Fitzpatrick, Deborah Vaughan, Matt Ervin, Kami Ervin, Sarabeth Drybread, and Cathy Hamm appointed to Edinburgh Redevelopment Commission with term ending 12/31/26, Dawn Graham, Scott Finley, and Rob Tiedeken appointed to Edinburgh Redevelopment Authority with term ending 12/31/28, Sarabeth Drybread appointed to the Economic Development Board with term ending 12/31/26, Ron Hoffman appointed to the Economic Development Board with term ending 12/31/28, Ryan Piercefield appointed to Storm Water Board with term ending 12/31/29, and Robert Jessie appointed to Storm Water Board with term ending 12/31/27.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-18 Board Appointments Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Joint Planning Commission, Joint Board of Zoning Appeals, Redevelopment Commission, Redevelopment Authority, Economic Development Board, and Storm Water Board. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Appointments to the Library Board- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated there are a couple spots on the Library Board that are appointed by the Council.

Edinburgh Library Director Denisea Nelson stated current board member Donna Bryant's term is coming to an end and she recommends renewing Ms. Bryant's term for another four years. Director Nelson stated that Bill Jones occupies the other spot and his term is until 2028 but his paperwork was not completed so it needs updated.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Donna Bryant to continue to serve on the library board as submitted. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Public Official Bonds- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented bonds for the Edinburgh Redevelopment Commission for a term of one year and herself for a term of one year.

Discussion was held regarding The Edinburgh Redevelopment Commission being required to have a bond.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the public official bond for the Edinburgh Redevelopment Commission. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the public official bond for Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the public official bond for Police Chief Doyne Little. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett apologized for missing Police Chief Doyne Little's bond.

Discussion was held regarding Deputy Chief Shawn Kelsay no longer being required to have a bond due to the Town joining the 77 Fund.

Wessler Invoice #46851 for Water Treatment Plant- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Wessler Invoice #46851 for Water Treatment Plant in the amount of $1,809.20. Water Superintendent Bill Jones has reviewed and signed.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Wessler Invoice #46851 for Water Treatment Plant in the amount of $1,809.20. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Wessler Invoice #46851. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Sewer Rate Discussion- Town Manager John Myers stated this was discussed at the previous Council meeting and there has been discussion regarding Driftwood Utilities hooking onto our wastewater service. Mr. Myers presented a 2024 financial report for the wastewater utility. Mr. Myers stated that they brought in approximately $1.69 million this year and spent approximately $1.96 million this year. Mr. Myers stated they spent approximately $270,000 more than they brought in. Mr. Myers stated regardless of whether Driftwood Utilities hooks on our service or not, he believes there still needs to be an increase in the sewer rate. Mr. Myers stated that Baker Tilly did a rate study for the Town, which was discussed at the previous Council meeting, and he believes the Council needs to at least do the first-rate increase at a minimum.

Discussion was held regarding subsidizing at Driftwood's expense before passing it on to taxpayers. Council President Piercefield stated that it will eventually have to happen because of the aging infrastructure and equipment that is over 20 years old. President Piercefield stated regardless of the amount of flow we receive, it does not change the age of anything. President Piercefield stated that they will be meeting with Driftwood Utilities January 8, 2026, to discuss them hooking on to our services further. President Piercefield stated that in his opinion, the Council should entertain the possibility of Driftwood Utilities then if it does not seem like it will work the Council goes to the last resort such as raising rates.

Councilwoman Buck agreed with President Piercefield.

Mr. Myers stated that the possible revenue from Driftwood Utilities would help but not totally solve the problem.

Discussion was held regarding how often rate increases should be made and the Town's last wastewater increase in 2016.

Discussion was held regarding how long it would take Driftwood Utilities to get up and running.

Clerk-Treasurer Barret stated that until a decision is made either way, the Council needs to look at doing another loan to the sewer department from the Rainy Day fund.

President Piercefield asked if the loan could come from the electric department.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the loan could come from either. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the wastewater utility really needs more cash flow, and they are not bringing in enough revenue right now.

Councilwoman Buck stated that something is inevitable to happen, but she'd like to wait to see if they can soften the blow with the Driftwood Utilities meeting on January 8.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if there would be any costs with new equipment if the Driftwood Utilities goes through.

Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie stated that the department is currently changing out the types of pumps they would be pumping into, but not because of Driftwood Utilities. Superintendent Jessie stated that it is needed because of the type of waste that has entered the system. Superintendent Jessie stated flushable wipes have been a disaster on the wastewater environment, so they must install a pump that deals with that better.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked Superintendent Jessie for an update on the belt press repair.

Superintendent Jessie stated that the belt press is underway and has been stripped and the electrical has been done. Superintendent Jessie stated that they are due back January 5 to reassemble and it will take approximately one week. Once it is reassembled, they can start utilizing the press again, which will save the department approximately $10,000 per week.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the department has spent over $150,000 on shipping it out rather than processing it themselves.

Superintendent Jessie stated that they did save some money with the portable press but could no longer keep it outside due to the weather and had to send it back approximately one month ago. Superintendent Jessie stated they went from $15,000 a month to $10,000 a week to haul the liquid solids. Superintendent Jessie stated that it does not settle as well in the winter and must be hauled out more.

President Piercefield stated that the Council has inherited a can that has been kicked down the road and neglected.

Superintendent Jessie stated there are a lot of failing systems in the plant because they have reached the end of their life. Superintendent Jessie stated that a piece of equipment that runs 24/7 for 365 days per year only lasts so long, even with good preventative maintenance. Superintendent Jessie stated that 20 years is a long time to ask for a piece of mechanical equipment to continue to operate in a harsh environment. Superintendent Jessie stated regardless of whether Driftwood hooks on, there is still going to have to be money added.

Park & Rec Equipment Discussion- Parks Director Daniel Teter handed out updated quotes to the Council. Director Teter stated that the department has their 2009 gator due to be replaced. Director Teter stated that he had budgeted to replace one this year but had not spent the money out of fear of possible cuts from SB1. Director Teter stated they had budgeted $45,000 for a replacement and both quotes are under that number. Director Teter presented quotes in the amount of $35,086.87 from Bobcat and $33,912.50 from John Deere. Director Teter stated that they have always had John Deere gators but were impressed with the Bobcat equipment as well.

Discussion was held regarding the warranties. Director Teter stated that they are identical.

Councilwoman Rooks asked which one would be the quickest to get.

Director Teter stated both companies act like they can get them quick, but they potentially would have to wait on the snowplow. Director Teter stated the John Deere gator has more horsepower and the Bobcat has more hauling capacity. The John Deere's cab has both AC and heat whereas Bobcat only has heat. Director Teter stated that he does not see the department utilizing the AC much, but it is a perk if they want to have it. Director Teter stated that he is comfortable with either and the department is really excited to just have a new piece of equipment.

Discussion was held regarding whether Director Teter had a preference.

Discussion was held regarding Director Teter's hauling capacity and the difference in hauling capacity between the two pieces of equipment.

Discussion was held regarding where they would get parts for the equipment.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of the John Deere Gator SUV 845m HVAC model 2026 in the amount of $33,912.50. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

2025 Encumbrances- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented 2025 encumbrances: the fire department for the J&K Communications mobile radio in the amount of $2,859 for the 2025 ambulance they will be purchasing and Pop Print Graphics in the amount of $4,750 for the new 2025 ambulance; and the Park and Rec for the John Deere Gator in the amount of $33,912.50.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the 2025 Encumbrances for Fire and EMS in the amounts $2,859 and $4,750, and for the Park and Rec in the amount of $33,912.50. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

EMS Interlocal Agreement with Shelbyville Fire Department- Fire Chief Justin Lollar presented a proposed interlocal agreement with Shelbyville Fire. Chief Lollar stated Shelbyville Fire has reached out and there are a lot of responses the Town's Fire and EMS does with them in the southwestern quadrant. Chief Lollar stated that they have drawn out a map going out toward the golf course, towards the east a little bit to 700, then coming back. Chief Lollar stated that it would also include about a three-mile stretch of the interstate. Chief Lollar stated that it is primarily Shelbyville and their paramedic ambulances that cover the area, but it is a long haul for them. Chief Lollar stated that they do a lot of mutual aid already with them and Shelbyville asked if they could reach out to see if the Town's Fire and EMS are available to respond with them. Chief Lollar stated that it could shorten their response time and they are not obligated to respond to Shelbyville's call if they are unavailable. Chief Lollar stated that there have been crashes just east of the interstate on 252 with residents but it is not their area, and they do not have any type of agency assist to be able to respond to those calls. Chief Lollar stated the Town currently has a similar agreement with German Township. Chief Lollar stated there is no money exchanged and no obligation to do anything, it is just a partnership.

Discussion was held regarding it being a mutual aid contract or interlocal agreement.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to review the EMS Interlocal Agreement with Shelbyville Fire Department. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Other Business

Councilwoman Sweet stated Wreaths Across America and Holiday of Lights were perfect considering the weather and thanked everyone who attended.

Councilwoman Buck and Councilwoman Rooks agreed.

Councilwoman Rooks asked what the next steps are regarding the building that was torn down at 201 West Main Cross Street.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated that the company who had removed the building provided quotes on tearing out the sidewalk and filling it. Director Teter stated that he does not believe they are going to go forward with that as the work can be completed in-house. Director Teter stated that as soon as the company's equipment is out of there they will be ready to tear out the sidewalks and do some fill work over there to at least make it a safe space.

Council President Piercefield stated that Wreaths Across America was amazing, he was very proud to be there, and everyone did a great job.

Town Manager John Myers stated that he wanted to give kudos to the cemetery for everything they did and the other departments that pitched in and helped mark graves for Wreaths Across America. Mr. Myers stated everyone did an awesome job and there was a lot of stress, but it was very appreciated. Mr. Myers stated with the snow that day, the street department came out and did a fantastic job on the streets. Mr. Myers stated that the new dump truck for the street department came in and is awesome. Mr. Myers stated on behalf of the street department and his self, he would like to thank the Council and the Town's citizens for allowing them to purchase that needed piece of equipment.

Fire Chief Justin Lollar thanked the Council for their support for 2025 and stated that they have had a productive year,

Council President Piercefield gave kudos to the public safety teams and stated they are going places he never dreamed they would be able to go 15 years ago. President Piercefield stated they are highly respected in their field now and are fantastic.

Police Deputy Chief Shawn Kelsay thanked the Council for all their support, backing the endeavors they like to do, and growing the department.

Planning Director Julie Young stated that she is looking forward to the new year and what can be accomplished.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated that Holiday of Lights was great for what it was and appreciated the work put in by a lot of different individuals. Director Teter stated President Piercefield was out there with his personal

equipment helping plow snow and there was a better turn out than expected. Director Teter thanked the Council for the new piece of equipment and stated one of his employees had already volunteered to go and drive it in. Director Teter stated that they are excited for 2026, have some new program ideas, and have a new playground going in at Irwin Park.

Street Superintendent Sean Barnett stated that he appreciates the new equipment, and the department loves it.

Discussion was held regarding the dump truck's hydraulics.

Cemetery Superintendent Stan Brown thanked the full-time military staff that came out, the American legion Post for all their support and dedication, the fire department, the police department, Cathy Hamm, SaraBeth Drybread, Dave Young, Rodney Burton, John Myers, and everyone in town. Superintendent Brown stated the departments came out and jumped through some hoops to make stuff happen. Superintendent Brown stated the parks department helped with the trash cans and it all came together as an amazing thing. Superintendent Brown thanked Council President Piercefield for coming out to the school and pushing snow. Superintendent Brown thanked the school corporation for allowing the holiday of Lights to move over there. Superintendent Brown thanked Webbs for storing the wreaths and assisting with hauling them that morning. Superintendent Brown stated that he'd like to thank over 150 people that came out and the community is amazing. Superintendent Brown thanked the Council for their support and that it makes him feel good to be part of the team. Superintendent Brown stated there was an elderly lady in a wheelchair at the cemetery during Wreaths Across America with tears in her eyes saying thank you and was able to get out of her wheelchair to place a wreath on her husband's grave. The lady said this was amazing and that this is what Christmas is about. Superintendent Brown stated those men and women gave their lives, hearts, and gave up so much more than what we had to go through for a month or two. Superintendent Brown stated that he is very blessed and thankful he was a part of that.

Council President Piercefield thanked the school and stated that the Town's partnership with the school is a huge value that larger communities may not have.

Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Absent
Sherri Sweet

Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer