

Town Council Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2024
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

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

Members Answering 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.

Minutes- Minutes of October 14, 2024, Town Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve October 14, 2024, Town Council meeting minutes. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented one claim docket in the amount of \$863,528.55.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the claim docket as presented. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-19 Abolish the Office of Town Marshal and Establishing a Board of Metropolitan Police Commission (2nd Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated this is the first ordinance to adopt in establishing eligibility for the 1977 fund which enhances pension options for the police and fire. Passage of this ordinance abolishes the Office of Town Marshal effective January 1, 2025, and establishes a Board of Metropolitan Police Commission. Following the passage of this Ordinance there will be two additional ordinances which establish pension boards for the police and fire. In order to be eligible for the 1977 fund there can not be a Town Marshal operation, it needs to be a police commission.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-19 Abolish the Office of Town Marshal and Establishing a Board of Metropolitan Police Commission (2nd Reading). Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-20 Establishing the Police Pension Board (2nd Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated that this ordinance is a requirement of the 1977 fund to establish a Police Pension Board that will handle police issues regarding discipline or pensions.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-20 Establishing the Police Pension Board (2nd Reading). Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-21 Establishing the Firefighter's Pension Board (2nd Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated that this ordinance is a requirement of the 1977 fund to establish a Firefighter's Pension Board that will handle firefighter issues regarding discipline or pensions.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-21 Establishing the Firefighter's Pension Board (2nd Reading). Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024 Introduction- Attorney Huddleston presented a proposed timeline for the General Obligation bond that could be issued to the town. The bond would be issued in December and provides up to \$1.5 million for the Town to spend on improvements.

Wessler Invoice 45498 for Water Treatment Plant- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented Wessler invoice 45498 in the amount of \$2,672 for the water treatment plant.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Wessler invoice 45498 in the amount of \$2,672. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign Wessler invoice 45498. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Meadow Lawn Water Utility Bond Release- Planning Director Julie Young stated this the second of water bonds for the Meadow Lawn industrial subdivision for release. Director Young stated the Water Superintendent has recommended the bond be released.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Meadow Lawn Water Utility Bond Release. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

New Vector Truck Loan Discussion- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated the Town has funds available in the Water and Electric Depreciation funds that can be used to pay cash for the new Vector Truck. The depreciation funds would be replenished with monthly transfers. Town Manager Myers stated paying cash would save the Town approximately \$150,000 in interest.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the new Vector Truck be paid through the Town as a cash sale. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Equipment Purchases and Driving Range Remodel- Timbergate Manager Wayne Gibbs requested to purchase three equipment pieces. The total for these three pieces would be \$46,555. Mr. Gibbs stated they have \$78,308 available in their funds.

Council President Piercefield asked Mr. Gibbs how old the equipment that he is currently using.

Mr. Gibbs stated they are from 1998 and still work, but it is costing more to maintain the equipment.

Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to approve the equipment purchases requested in the amount of \$46,555. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Gibbs also requested the driving range be updated. With the increased business, the current driving range has been damaged. Mr. Gibbs would like to pour concrete then put mats on so that they are level. Mr. Gibbs presented a quote for this work to be done in the amount of \$21,475.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the driving range modification cost in the amount of \$21,475. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Teddy Bear Love Fund Donation Request- Bonnie Shehan with the Teddy Bear Love Fund stated it is a non-profit organization that makes and donates stuffed animals to local hospitals. Mrs. Shehan stated they will be hosting dual stuffing parties on November 14, 2024, from 6PM to 9PM at JRDC and the sports complex. Mrs. Shehan requested the town donate \$1800 so that they can make an additional 600 stuffed animals.

Council President Piercefield asked if it could be expanded to the Town's fire and police departments. Mrs. Shehan stated it depends on how many stuffing parties and animals they have.

Councilwoman Sweet asked if they have requested donations from other business in town. Mrs. Shehan confirmed that the American Legion and Manar Inc. have donated so far.

Councilwoman Buck asked if they plan on doing this on a regular basis. Mrs. Shehan confirmed they do plan on doing it regularly.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if the Town is under any restrictions when it comes to donations and sponsorships. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that it would be similar to donations made in the past to after prom.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if the Town has a limit to the amount they can donate. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated they could donate \$1000 since it is late in the budget year.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to sponsor \$1,000 to the teddy bear love fund stuffing party in memory of Emma Grace Sweet. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Other Business

Town Manager John Myers stated there was a fire downtown and the fire department's quick response helped save a couple of the buildings. Mr. Myers also stated the Town's electric department was awarded the Safety Award of Excellence this year for the size of the town. Mr. Myers congratulated Electric Superintendent Steve Clark.

Jerry Sweeten with Ecosystems Connections Institute stated the removal of the dam was completed this afternoon. Mr. Sweeten stated they kept approximately 450 blocks from the dam,

and they are being stored at the street department. They also brought wood that was found at the site that was from the Corduroy Road that was there before the dam was built, believed to be the first crossing of the river to get to Nineveh and was five layers deep, but most of the wood was in poor condition. Mr. Sweeten stated they spoke with a lot of citizens answering questions during the dam removal. It will take around a year for the river to heal, and they will provide a report before the end of the year. Mr. Sweeten stated they will be back next summer to do more detailed survey work of the river channel.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett expressed the utility office workers' gratitude for the Council's approval of the utility office being closed on October 24, 2024, for software training.

Council President Piercefield stated Town employee Angie Thompson lost her long-fought battle with cancer. President Piercefield stated Ms. Thompson was a one-of-a-kind individual who will be missed tremendously.

Police Chief Doyne Little thanked the council for the change with the 1977 fund. Chief Little requested an amendment to the road closure during Halloween trick or treating hours and asked for the closure to stop at the East Side Elementary exit instead of going all the way down to Lind Drive which would allow people to utilize the parking available at the elementary school.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated over 900 people participated in the Halloween festival held at the high school and they received donations from different groups and individuals. Director Teter thanked Police Chief Doyne Little for providing the music for the festival. Parks Director Teter thanked the high school for letting them utilize their facility for the festival. Parks Director Teter thanked President Piercefield for the kind words said about Town employee Angie Thompson and agreed she will be missed.


Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread stated the Launch Johnson County partnership we have with Franklin College and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce has their first pitch competition on October 29, 2024, at Franklin College. Director Drybread stated they will be giving a \$10,000 grant to an entrepreneur in the area. The 12 Days of Christmas first event will be the Swine and Dine event on November 6, 2024 and just received a sponsorship for the event from Xfinity.

Adjourn

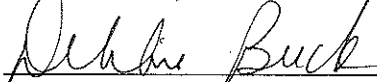
Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

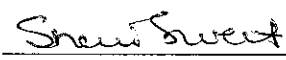
These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Edinburgh Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkiGffOyWphtcPehlL-R5g> for as long as this media is supported.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ryan Piercefield, President


Miriam Rooks, Vice President


Debbie Buck


Sherri Sweet


Michael Bryant

ATTEST:


Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer