

**Town Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2024**  
**6:00PM**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

Council President Piercefield 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 28, 2024, Town Council Meeting.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve October 28, 2024, Town Council meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Claims-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented two claim dockets. One claim docket was for the end of month of September 2024 in the amount of \$96,655.92. The second claim docket for November 12, 2024, in the amount of \$522,768.04.

Councilwoman Rooks asked what the approximate \$7000 claim was for a vehicle repair 2000 Chevy truck.

Town Manager John Myers stated the transmission in the street department's dump truck needed repaired.

Councilwoman Rooks asked what the refund for a hotel room claim was. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated it was a refund to a citizen who had paid to go on the upcoming JRDC group trip.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve both claim dockets as presented. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Ordinance 2024-16 Approving Plan Commission Resolution 2024-4 Rezoning (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)-** Attorney Huddleston stated this was a rezoning request recommended favorable by the Planning Commission, prior to the previous council meeting, the applicant for the rezoning withdrew the request. Huddleston stated that the Council must still take action since the Plan Commission recommended approval, as taking no action by the council would be considered as approval. Attorney Huddleston recommended the council take action by denying the request.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to deny Ordinance 2024-16 Approving Plan Commission Resolution 2024-4 Rezoning (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading). Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Ordinance 2024-22 GO Bond Ordinance (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)-** Attorney Huddleston stated at the last council meeting, he presented the opportunity to the council to do the GO Bonds. Huddleston introduced the bond counsel Dennis Otten with Bose, McKinney and Evans.

Dennis Otten with Bose, McKinney and Evans stated the General Obligation bonds help communities keep their tax rate from falling and get some funds for projects. Mr. Otten stated based on the size and population of Edinburgh, we could receive up to \$1.5 million, funds could be used for park improvements, road and street projects, sidewalk projects, and other municipal projects including equipment, building upgrades and public safety, funds must be spent within 3 years. Mr. Otten stated tonight is the introduction of the bond ordinance with the public hearing for the appropriation and possible adoption of the ordinance would be at the next Town Council meeting on November 25, 2024, following is the appropriation ordinance also being introduced tonight which appropriates the proceeds of the bonds. Once the bond ordinance is adopted, a technical notice will be published. Mr. Otten stated Baker Tilly is working on a term sheet and will be contacting banks to see which one provides the lowest rate. Mr. Otten stated the bonds must be issued by the end of the year for 2025 budget purposes.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated she sent information to Baker Tilly on the two banks here in town.

Mr. Otten stated the bonds will be payable semi-annually and are tax exempt for tax law purposes.

Attorney Huddleston stated that he has reviewed the ordinances, and they are acceptable, tonight is just introduction, so no action is needed tonight.

**Ordinance 2024-23 GO Bond Additional Appropriation Ordinance (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)-** Council President Piercefield stated this Ordinance for the GO Bond appropriations is an introduction related to the GO Bond ordinance introduced before this one and no action is needed tonight.

**Resolution 2024-29 2025 Vector Truck Purchase-** Attorney Huddleston stated the Council already approved the purchase of the Vector truck but at that time the Town was going to purchase the truck with a loan and lease purchase. Attorney Huddleston stated that the Town has the cash to purchase the truck without any type of loan which would save a lot of money. This resolution is to modify what the Council has already approved but says we will pay with cash instead of a loan.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-29 for 2025 Vector Truck Purchase. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**INDOT Community Crossing Grant 2024-2-** Council President Ryan Piercefield announced that he was notified on November 7, 2024, that Edinburgh was selected to receive the Community Crossings Grant for 2024 Call for Projects.

Discussion was held concerning what this grant would cover.

Town Manager John Myers stated the grant was \$1.4 million.

**Wessler Proposal for Professional Services-** Town Manager John Myers stated he met with Wessler to come up with a study for wastewater and water for the new Castle Rock addition and the infrastructure needs. Town Manager Myers introduced Wessler to give their presentation.

Adam Sitka with Wessler stated the proposal is to provide a study for the Castle Rock area, they will be looking into how to get water and sewer to and from the Castle Rock addition and what the well and wastewater treatment capacity is, to best provide service to the Castle Rock area.

President Piercefield stated that he had spoken with Water Superintendent Jones and Wastewater Superintendent Jessie to discuss the needs. Piercefield also commented that the Water department has a pipe in the water that is exposed, that needs to be addressed.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the Wessler proposal of professional services for the Castle Rock development utility study project. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Potential Real Estate Lease Discussion-** Town Manager John Myers stated Abraham Kipp with KHI Inc. is contracted with INDOT for the 252 project and they are looking for an office space to rent for their engineers. KHI Inc. would like to rent the office in the old electric building for 45 months.

Discussion was held on how to proceed or if advertising was necessary. Attorney Huddleston advised the council that if they wanted to authorize him to take the next steps, he could get an agreement ready for the next council meeting.

*Council President Piercefield made a motion to approve Attorney Huddleston to take the next steps to get the real estate lease agreement. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Auction Items-** Town Manager John Myers stated the street department has a 1990 Chevrolet Tanker Truck and a Case 650H Dozer they would like to auction off on GovDeals.com. These items are no longer used. Mr. Myers stated the electric department has a Ditch Witch 5700 Tractor that is no longer used, and they would like to auction off on GovDeals.com.

Discussion was held on what the Ditch Witch 5700 Tractor was previously used for, selling the items with a reserve price of the suggested value, and having Dustin prepare the draft.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to allow Attorney Huddleston to draft up the auction items list to sell for no less than what is listed as the resale value. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Annual Employee Health Insurance Renewal-** Town Manager John Myers stated the Town's current insurance is offering a HRA and HSA plan to employees and there was not a rate increase last year and there is not a rate increase for 2025. Mr. Myers stated with the voluntary employee dental and vision insurance, the Town's insurance representative found a new company, Paramount, with better plans with a small increase.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the employee health insurance renewal plan for 2025. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the annual employee health insurance renewal for 2025. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Police Department Donation-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett announced the police department has received two donations for the K9 fund. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated one check is from the sale of merchandise and the other is from a local business. The two donations total up to \$1,710.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to accept the donations for the police department. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**ERC 2025 Spending Plan-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated the ERC 2025 spending plan that was approved in the amount of \$240,415 by the commission at their last meeting on October 28, 2024. The 2025 spending plan includes line items for capital expenditures and professional expenses. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated that the ERC 2025 spending plan must be filed with the Town Council.

**Purchase of Transformers-** Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated he had received two bids for pole mount transformers that are stock items, approximately a year ago 20 had been purchased and the stock is now down to 6. Brownstown Electric Supply submitted a bid for new transformers and Solomon Electric submitted a bid for remanufactured transformers. Superintendent Clark stated that there is not much of a price difference between purchasing remanufactured ones and new ones. Superintendent Clark stated if we purchase remanufactured ones, we won't know what shape they are in until we receive them. Clark is asking for permission to purchase the new transformers from Brownstown Electric Supply.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if they are ok funding wise. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett confirmed they are.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of transformers from Brownstown Supply in the amount of \$37,667.50. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Purchase of Poles-** Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated the purchase of poles from Koppers, is another stock item that needs replenished due to current projects with Comcast and AT & T as well as normal maintenance.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of poles from Koppers in the amount of \$19,028. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

### **Other Business**

Councilwoman Buck asked what the update is on the tearing down of the JMH building located at 201 West Main Cross St. Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread stated the person who was taking the building down turned the keys back over, so JMH is looking at another avenue to get the building down. Director Drybread stated it will be approximately a month and a half to two months before the building is down. Attorney Huddleston stated he was notified by JMH's attorney that if there is a delay in the tearing down of the building because of the new contractor, JMH would have to request an extension.

Town Manager John Myers stated he had a meeting with Wessler on Friday concerning Insight that is doing the sewer lining and has requested a 90-day extension. Adam Sitka with Wessler stated the contractor recently provided a status update on what they have completed so far on the day contract that should be completed on November 25th. The only work completed so far is a video of the site and point repairs which is the pre-work to the lining is scheduled to start on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held concerning what happens if the contractor does not finish the work by the deadline causing a breach of contract, fines that could be assessed, potentially reassigning the contract, and what the next steps are and the project's timeline as well as the 252-project timeline.

Attorney Huddleston suggested the council have a look at timing and also talk to the contractor and see what options are other than the extension. Huddleston stated that if there is to be an action on the extension it would need to be done at the next council meeting, and he can explore other options and present them to the council at the next meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated she met with Baker Tilly last week and they discussed possibly implementing an availability or capacity fee on new development and upcoming improvements for the wastewater. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett asked the council if they would like Baker Tilly to come up with a scope of work for the capacity fee.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated that the road closure for Halloween was a success. Chief Little stated they are preparing for Black Friday at the outlet mall.

Councilwoman Rooks stated the police department did a great job on Halloween.

Fire Chief Justin Lollar requested to advertise for three full-time EMT positions that he had proposed during budget meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated Chief Lollar shifted line items around in his budget to account for these positions.

President Piercefield directed Chief Lollar to start the process of advertising for the positions.

Planning Director Julie Young stated Castle Rock has filed their primary plat and will be on the Plan Commission meeting agenda for December. Director Young stated as part of the grant requirements, there will be a public hearing on November 19, 2024, at the Plan Commission meeting.

Council President Piercefield asked how the fee schedule was coming along. Planning Director Julie Young stated the fee schedule has been updated and she will be proposing adjustments to the planning fee schedule.

Council President Piercefield asked if the wastewater and water departments had enough staff to supervise the infrastructure installation that will be coming with the development of Castle Rock. Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie stated the wastewater department would need at least one more full-time employee. President Piercefield requested Superintendent Jessie and Planning Director Julie Young to work with Wessler and come up with a proposal for supervision of the project.

Planning Director Julie Young stated in the new subdivision ordinance it has a provision where the developer would have to pay for the review. Discussion was held concerning if there was anything about paying for the inspection in the ordinance.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated the new Vac Truck came in. Council President Piercefield asked if the old one is still functional that went to the Wastewater. Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie confirmed that it does.

President Piercefield asked Water Superintendent Jones to explain to the council the issue with the water line in the river.

Water Superintendent Jones stated there is a 12-inch water main that crosses the river by the wastewater treatment plant. Superintendent Jones stated it is exposed and has been for a couple of years. If there was a bad freeze, it is possible everyone located on the north side of the river would not have water. Discussion was held concerning whether there was a casing around the water main. Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated with the dam busting and the drought, the exposed water main has come to his attention. President Piercefield stated that something needs to be done sooner rather than later.

Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread stated the JRDC hosted the Swine and Dine event last Wednesday and had 27 people attend. Director Drybread requested to have road closures for the Holiday of Lights on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 6pm to 9pm. Director

Drybread stated with the horse and carriage rides, it could be safer to have a route closed for them.

Discussion was held concerning car traffic down East Main Cross during the Holiday of Lights event, what roads will be closed for the event, and the possibility of having another designated evening that is more car traffic to view the decorations along East Main Cross in coordination with a trolley night already scheduled on December 22.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the road closure of East Main Cross on December 14, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. starting at the downtown plaza to Lind Drive. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread stated she will be bringing an application to apply for the IU Rural Placemaking Studio grant to the next council meeting.

Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread thanked the police and fire departments for the assistance and honoring of Town employee Angie Thompson at her funeral last Saturday.

### **Public Comments**

Haley Roberts, 8455 E County Rd 900 N, Hope, Indiana, stated she would like to petition the Council to change the 15-minute loading zone signs on Walnut Street to open more parking spaces. Ms. Roberts stated there is not enough parking downtown and some of the store owners are parking in front of other stores all day.

Discussion was held concerning why the 15-minute loading signs were put up in the first place.

Ms. Roberts stated that she spoke to all the store owners and employees that were open today and they agreed that more parking space is needed.

Council President Piercefield asked Police Chief Little if they have ever enforced the 15-minute parking. Chief Little stated only if they receive a complaint.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to allow Attorney Huddleston to create an ordinance to remove the 15-minute parking zone on Walnut Street. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

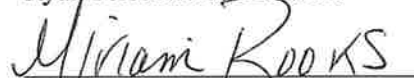
### **Adjourn**

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

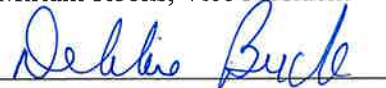
*These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Edinburgh Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffOyWphtcPehlL-R5g> for as long as this media is supported.*

### **EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

Ryan Piercefield, President



Miriam Rooks, Vice President



Debbie Buck



Sherri Sweet



Michael Bryant

ATTEST:



Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer